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# ZOOT!

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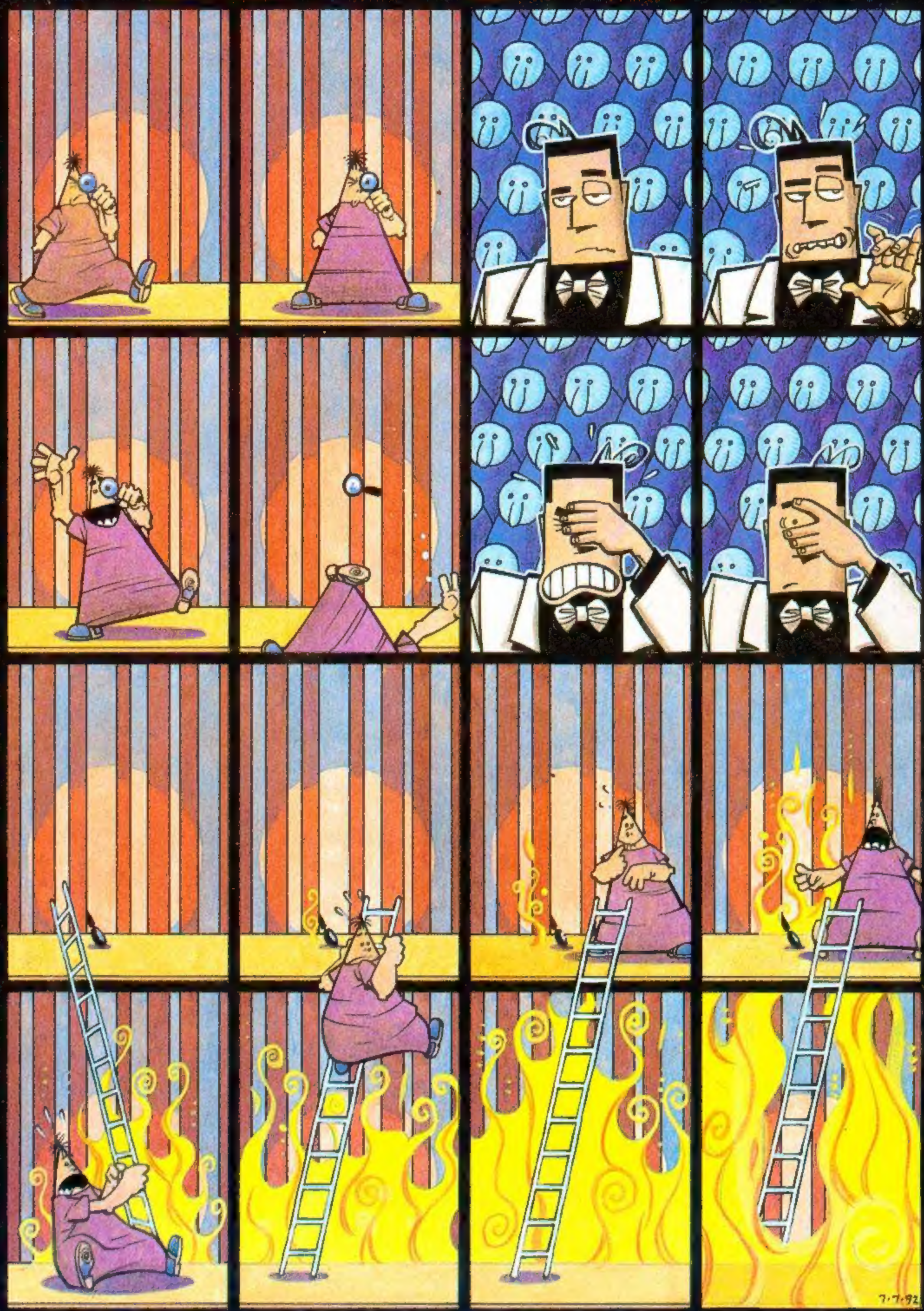


FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

# ZOOT!

## NUMBER ONE

BY ANDREW AND ROGER LANGRIDGE

EDITED BY GARY GROTH

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THE TEA PARTY... BACK COVER


## LETTERS

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## NOTES by Andrew

ART d'ECCO AND THE GUMP ARE REFUGEES FROM OUR FIRST FANTAGRAPHICS SERIES (AND INDEED FROM THE WILD AND WONDERFUL WORLD OF MINICOMICS), TITLED WITH STUNNING ORIGINALITY *ART d'ECCO* (4 ISSUES, 1990-92, R.I.P). THEIR FRIEND IS ART NOUVEAU. DON'T ASK.

DEREK SEALS, THE CHARACTER, APPEARED FULLY FORMED IN A DREAM. HE IS HERE FAITHFULLY RECONSTRUCTED. A BIT OF A WEIRDO, IF YOU ASK ME.

*THE FABULOUS WORLD OF THINGS*, OR MORE PARTICULARLY MESSRS. FUSSY & COFFEE AND GENTLE ANNIE, WERE AN OLD JOKE WHO WAITED MANY MONTHS FOR THEIR MOMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT. THANK YOU MICHAEL AND LISA (I WONDER IF THE JOKE TRAVELS?). THIS ONE IS DEDICATED TO *THE TABLE*.

*THE JOURNEY HALFWAY* IS THE PROLOGUE TO A FOOLISHLY AMBITIOUS MAJOR PROJECT WHICH I RESISTED THE TEMPTATION TO CALL '*REFER MADNESS*'.

TARQUIN IS, CURIOUSLY ENOUGH, BASED ON FACT. HE'S ALSO BASED ON RUMOUR, LIES AND GOSSIP. A NOTE ON TARQUIN'S VOICE WILL HELP UNDERSTAND THE CREATURE, PERHAPS. IT'S A HIGH, WAVERY FALSETTO (WITH THE OCCASIONAL VERTIGINOUS SWOOP TO BASSO PROFUNDO) THAT IS CONTINUALLY BREAKING. ADOPT A WHEEDLING, BADGERING YET PATRONISING TONE AND PUNCTUATE WITH MATERNAL 'MMM'S TO TASTE.

*THE TEA PARTY* IS A FREE ADAPTATION OF *FILM #7 (TEA PARTY)*, AN UNPRODUCED FILM CONCEPT BY YOKO ONO. IT'S REFRESHING TO SEE YOKO FINALLY GET SOME RECOGNITION AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS OF MISOGYNY AND XENOPHOBIA. IF ONLY SHE HADN'T MARRIED THAT POP MUSICIAN...

FINALLY, *EVERYBODY'S DOING IT* AND *KNOCK KNOCK* ARE REMNANTS FROM OUR ORIGINAL *ART DEKKO* (sic) MINICOMICS, 1988, ALSO KNOWN AS THE '*AUTOMATIC WRITING ERA*'.


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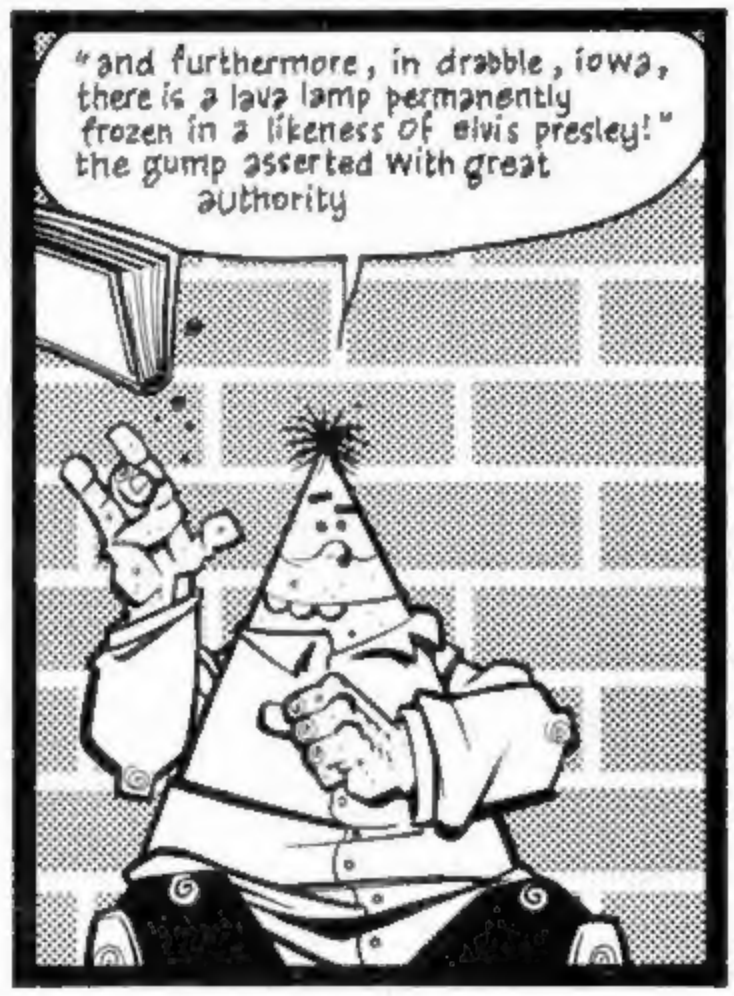
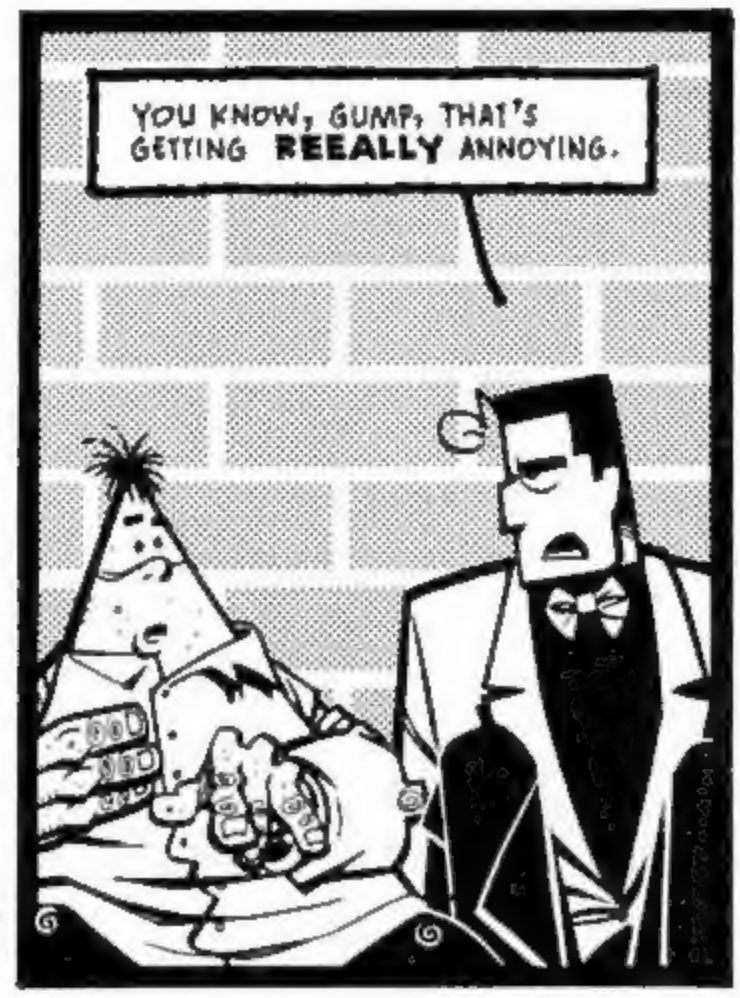
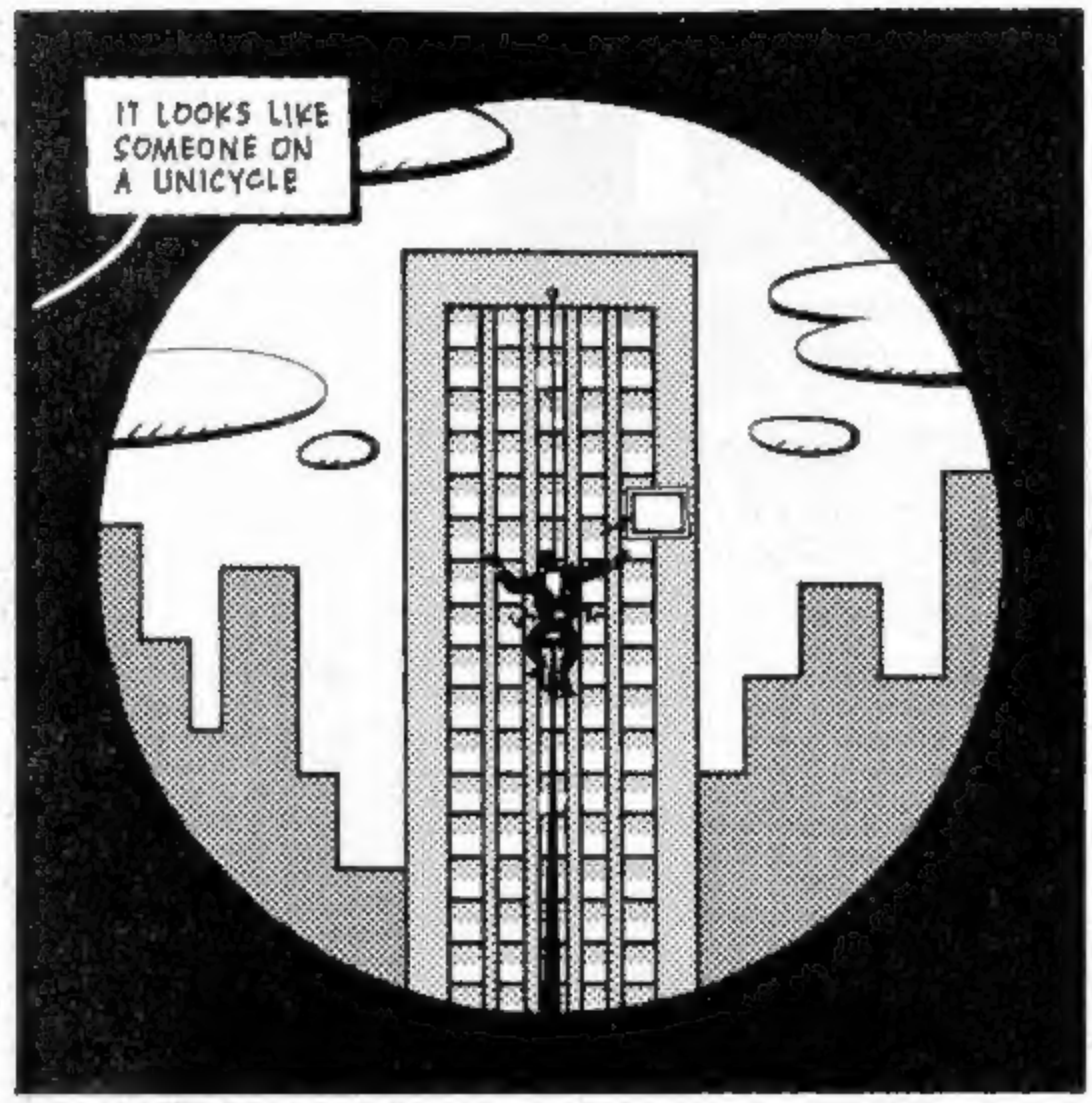
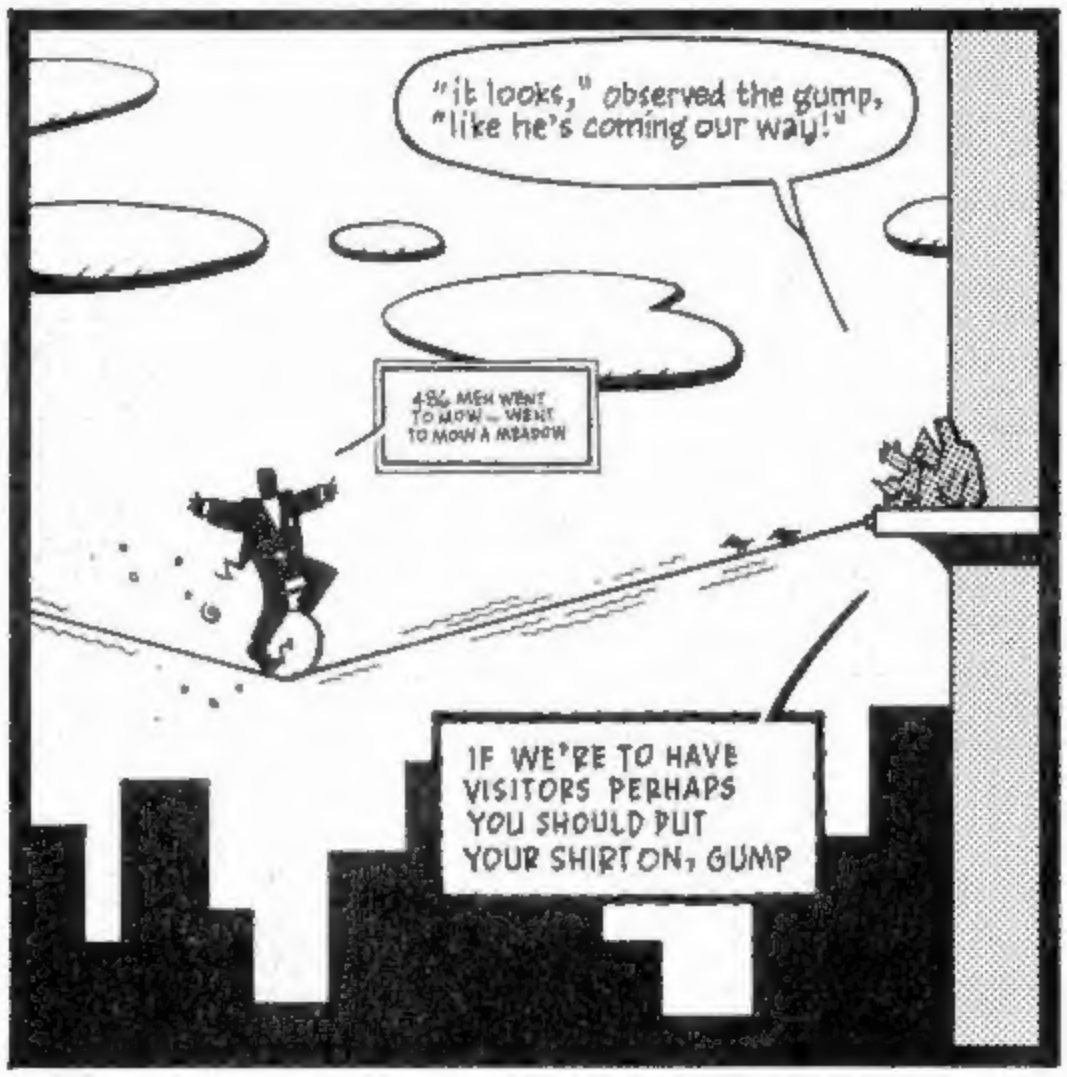
# ART d'ECCO AND THE GUMP

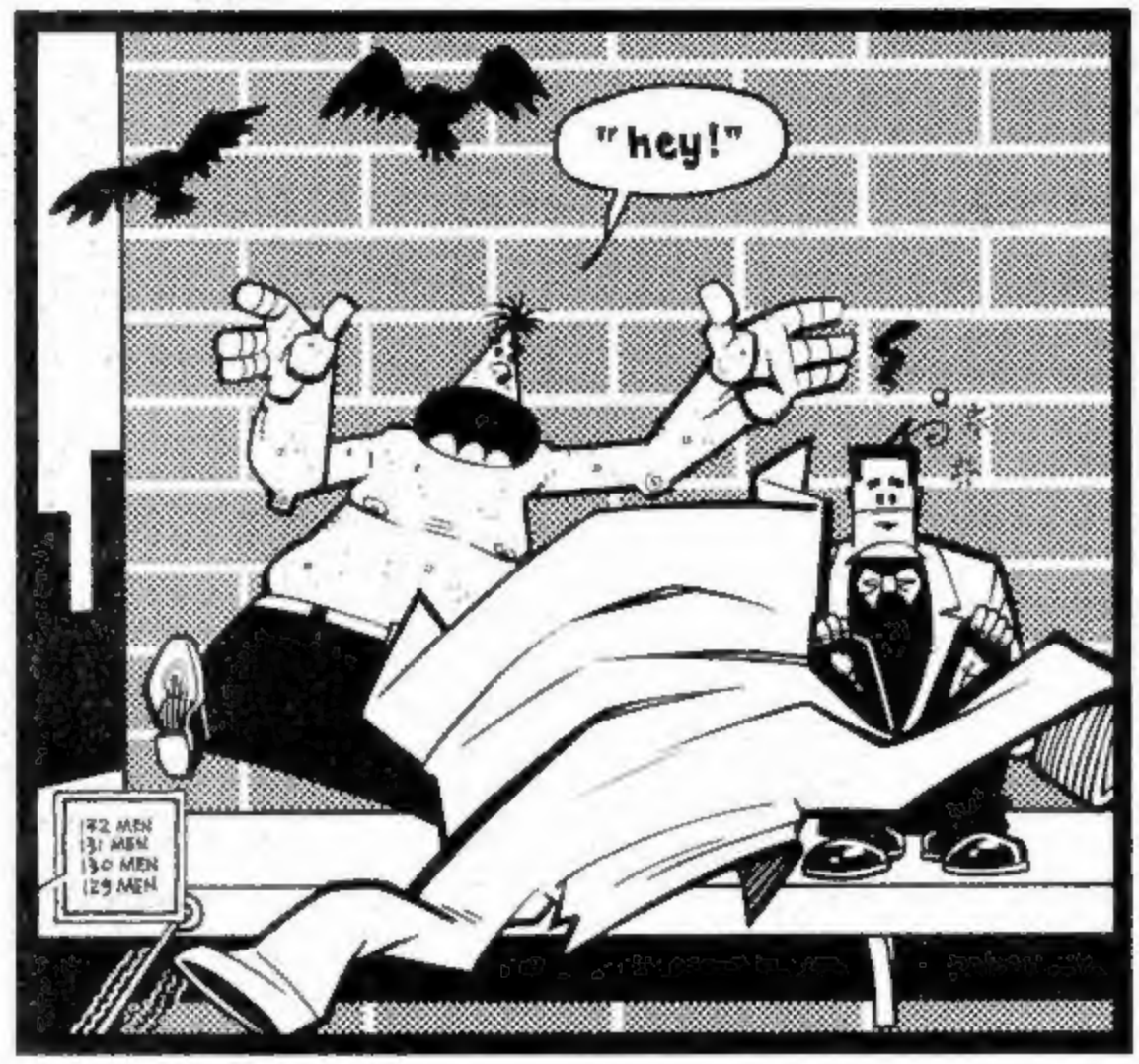


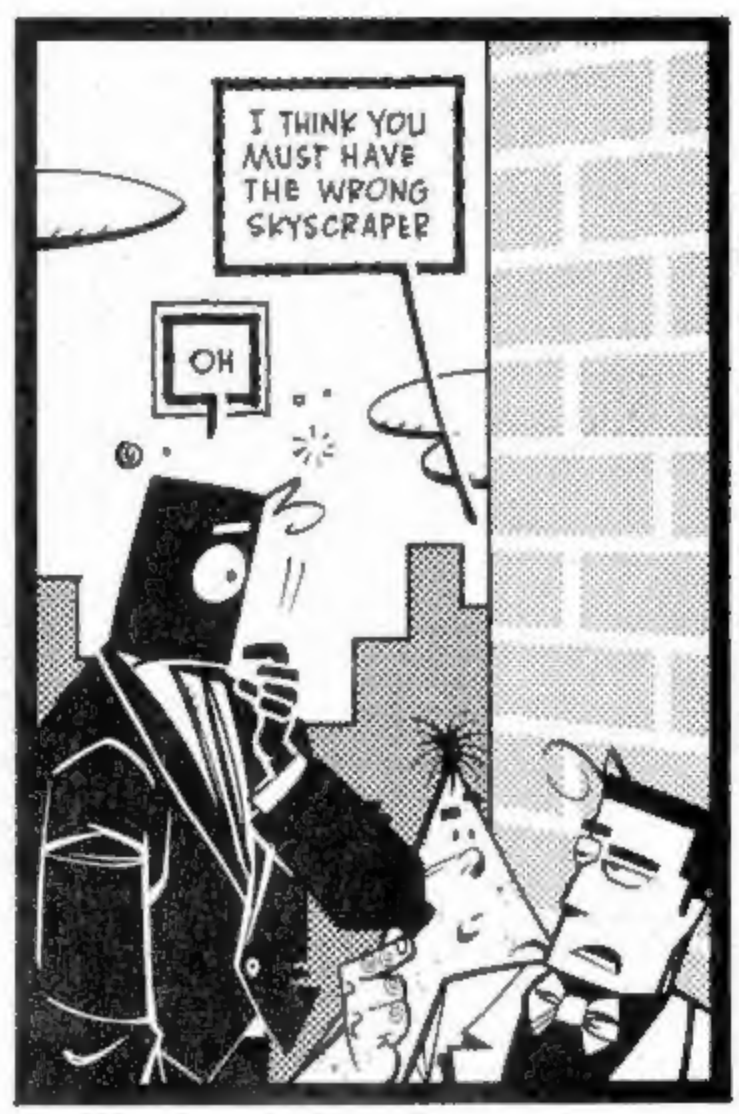
"hey," exclaimed the gump, "look at that!"


IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE ON A UNICYCLE


"it looks," observed the gump, "like he's coming our way!"
486 MEN WENT TO MOW — WENT TO MOW A MEADOW
IF WE'RE TO HAVE VISITORS PERHAPS YOU SHOULD PUT YOUR SHIRT ON, GUMP


"hey!"
132 MEN
131 MEN
130 MEN
129 MEN

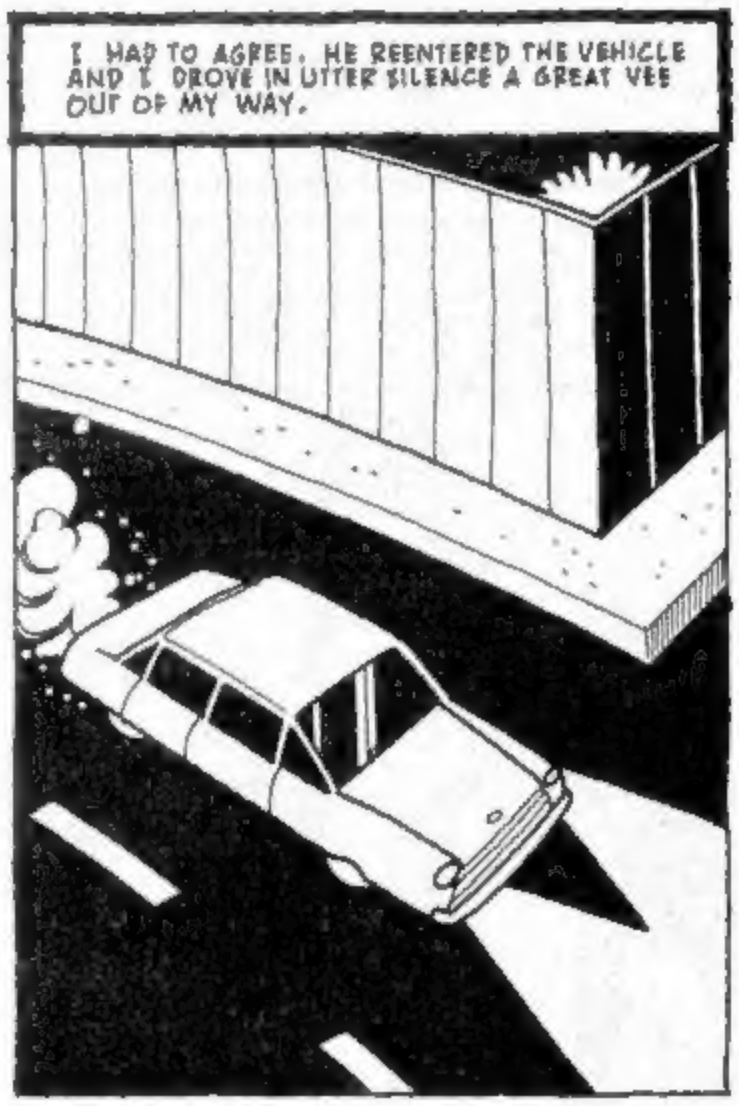
... ONE MAN AND HIS DOG... WENT TO MOW A MEADOW!
"hello," welcomed the gump
HOWDY DOO! NOW WHICH ONE OF YOU LOVELY LADIES ORDERED THE UNICYCLE?


I THINK YOU MUST HAVE THE WRONG SKYSCRAPER
OH

"he must have been lost," noted the gump sagely
487 MEN WENT TO MOW...
END

# THE DEREK SEALS STORY

WHEN WE REACHED THEIR DESTINATION THEY BOTH GOT OUT AND HAD A MUTED ARGUMENT IN THE STREET. I DON'T REMEMBER DEREK PARTICIPATING.
JANE ASKED IF I COULD TAKE DEREK HOME AND GAVE ME HIS ADDRESS (A FLAT FORMERLY INHABITED BY SOME MUTUAL FRIEND) IN A DIFFERENT SUBURB.

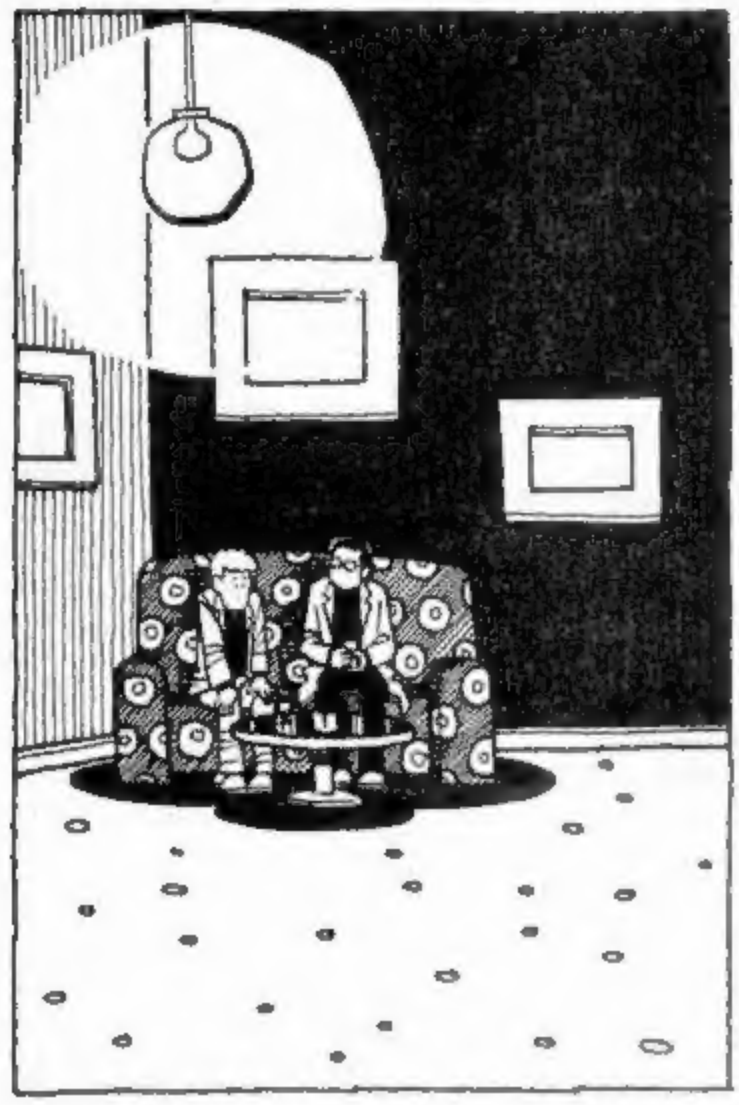

I HAD TO AGREE. HE REENTERED THE VEHICLE AND I DROVE IN UTTER SILENCE A GREAT VEE OUT OF MY WAY.

OUTSIDE THE RAMSHACKLE HOUSE I MUMBLED SOME NEUTRAL FAREWELL. DEREK TURNED AND SMILED AFFABLY AS HE SHUT THE DOOR AND DRIFTED OUT OF MY LIFE, VOICELESS.

WE BEGAN TO TALK IN POLITE GENERALITIES. I ASKED IF HE STILL SAW JANE.
"JANE." HE SEARCHED MY EYES. "OH, JANE. NO, I ONLY MET HER THAT ONCE."

I REFERRED TO THE FLYER HE WAS TURNING OVER IN HIS HANDS AND HE TALKED A LITTLE ABOUT IT WHILE DELIBERATELY PLACING IT FAR AWAY ON A BLACK GLASS TABLE.

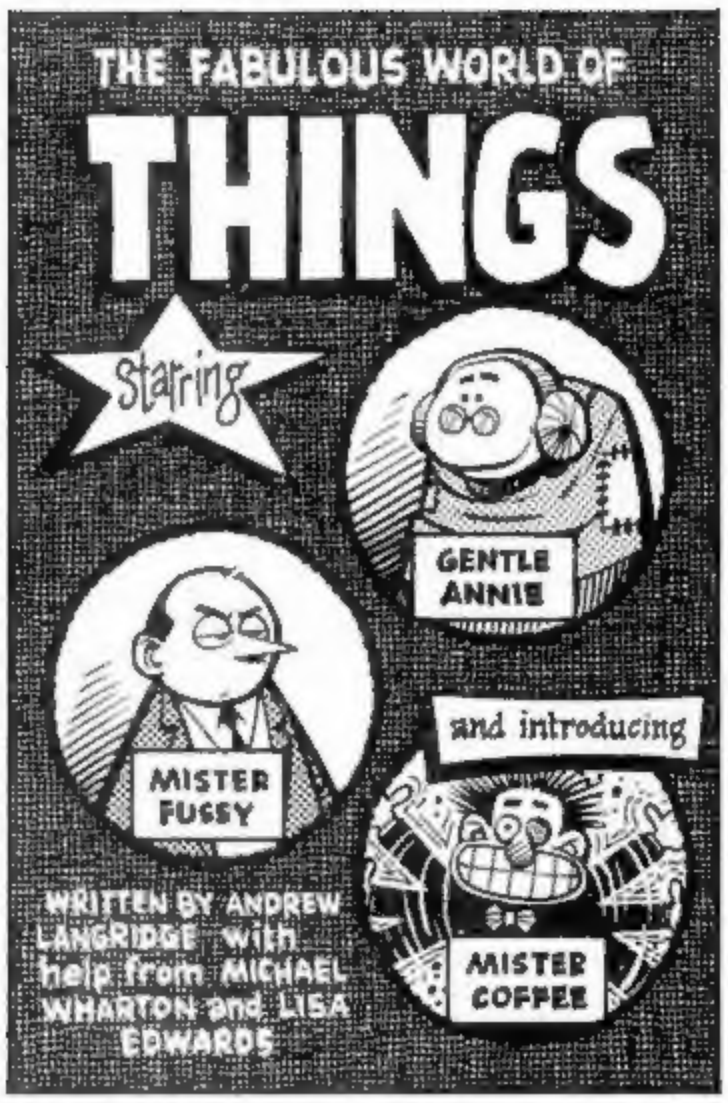
"HAVE YOU SEEN ANY SHOWS HERE?" I INNOCENTLY ASKED AND HE LOOKED STRAIGHT INTO ME. TURNED AWAY AND PLUNGED INTO HEAVY SILENCE.

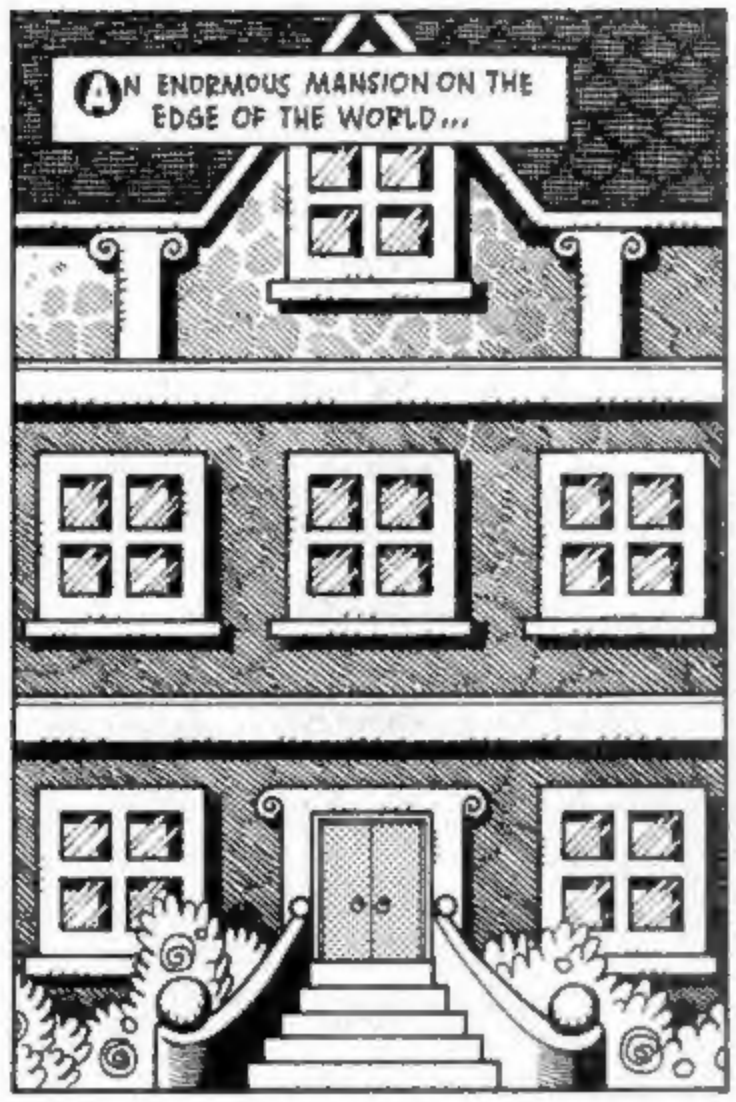


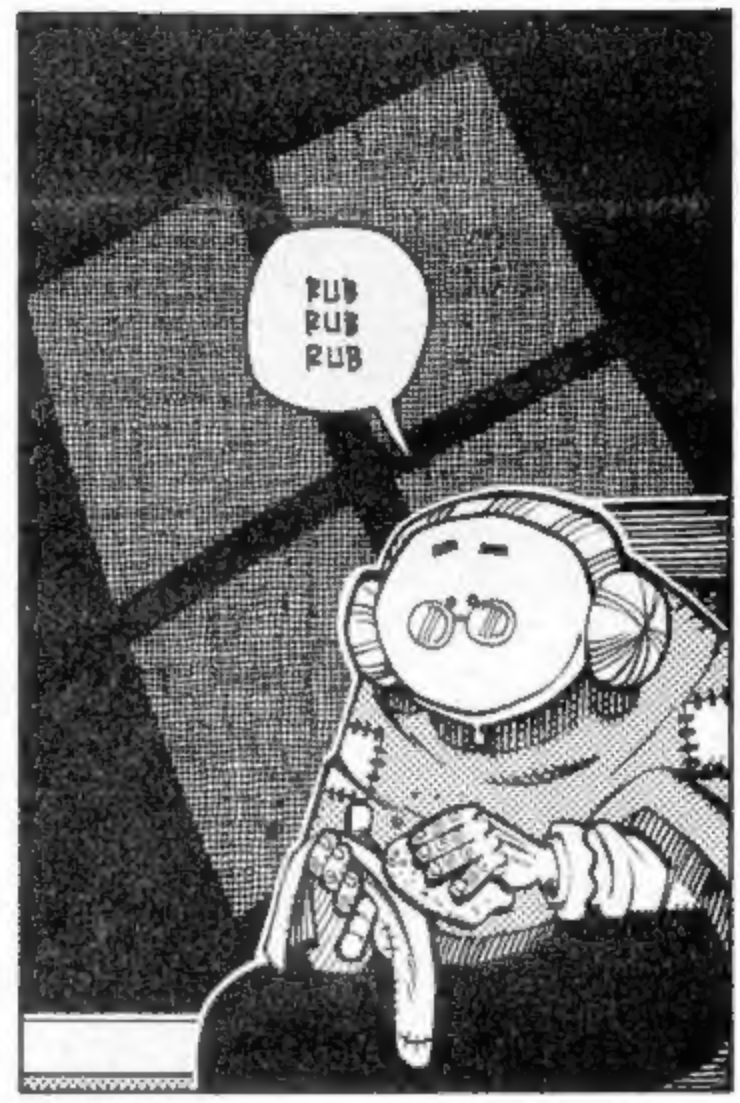
AFTER AN AGE I CLEARED MY THROAT AND BEGAN LOOKING AROUND FOR ANY EXCUSE TO RELOCATE MYSELF. I GULPED (DOWN) THE LAST DESPERATE DREGS OF COFFEE.

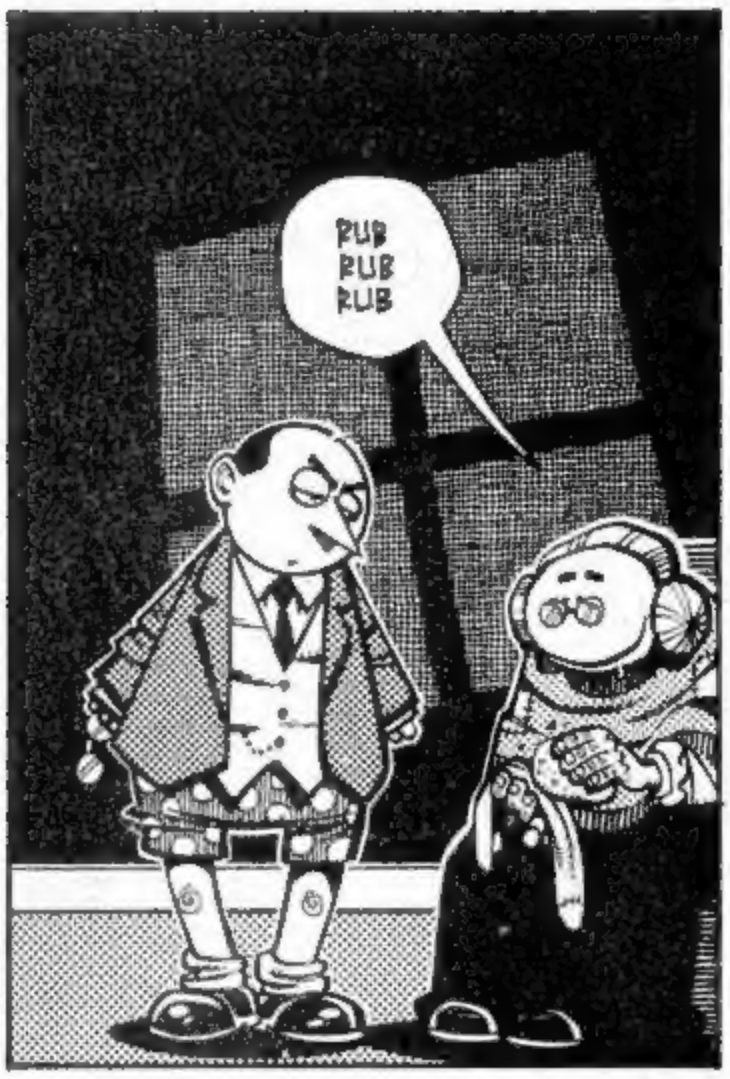
SEVERAL MINUTES PASSED BEFORE DEREK SAID, "THERE WAS A COLLECTION OF LOCAL HISTORICAL PAINTINGS. I THINK THESE (INDICATING THE SULLEN WITNESSES) ARE FROM THAT EXHIBITION." RETURNING TO PRECISELY THE SAME TONE OUR CONVERSATION HAD WORN BEFORE ITS HIATUS.

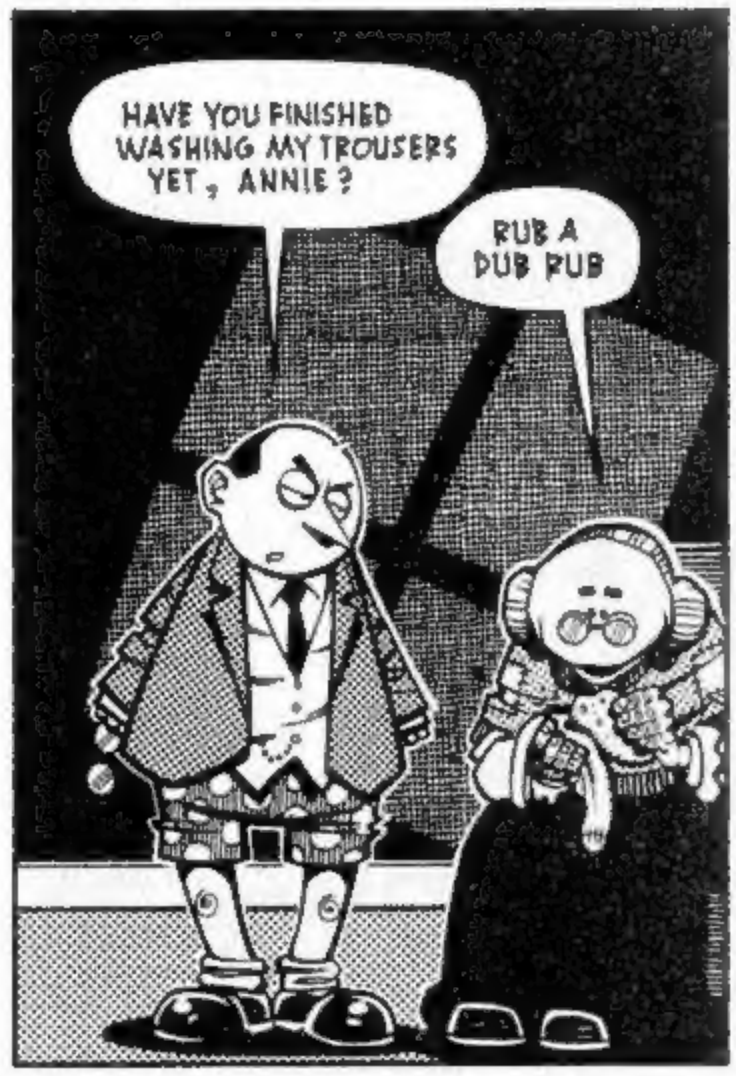
End Of Chapter One


THE FABULOUS WORLD OF
THINGS
Starring
GENTLE ANNIE
MISTER FUSSY
and introducing
MISTER COFFEE
WRITTEN BY ANDREW LANGRIDGE with help from MICHAEL WHARTON and LISA EDWARDS

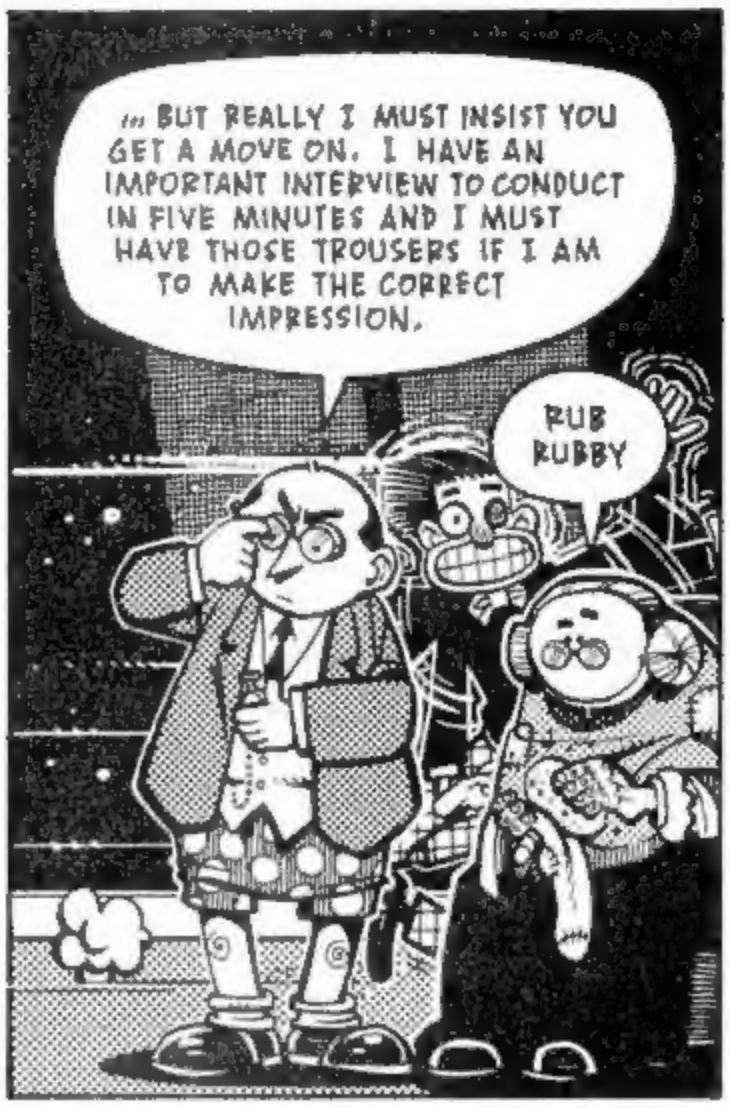

AN ENORMOUS MANSION ON THE EDGE OF THE WORLD...


RUB RUB RUB

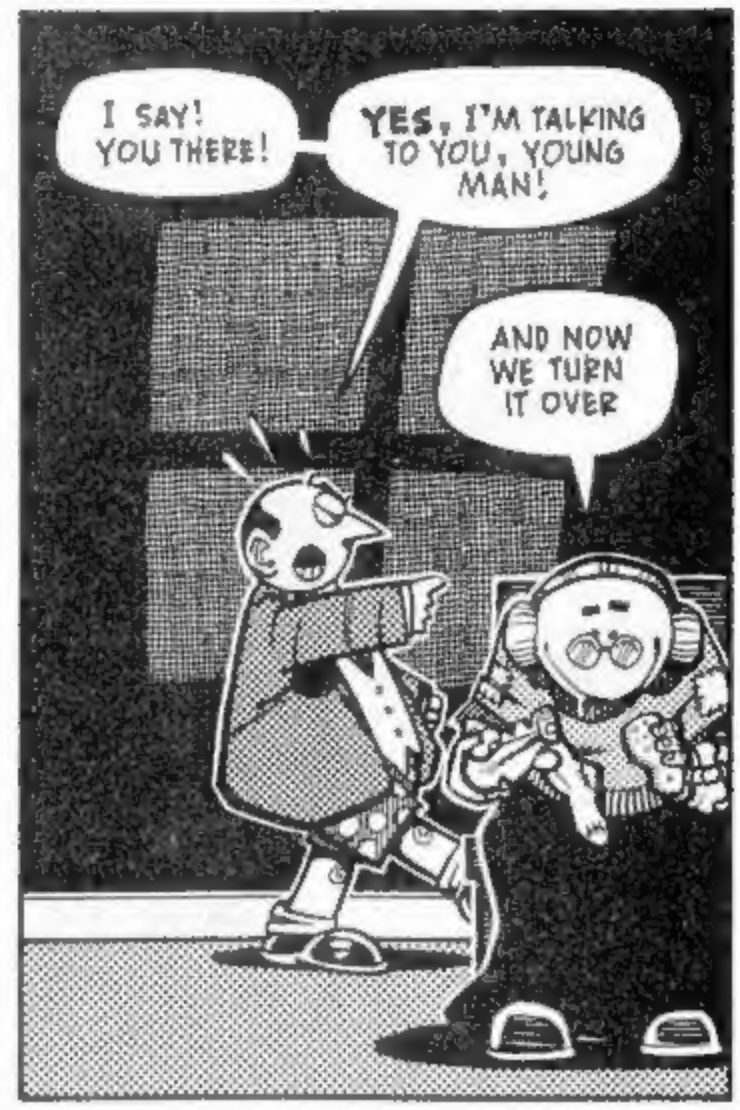

RUB RUB RUB


HAVE YOU FINISHED WASHING MY TROUSERS YET, ANNIE?
RUB A DUB RUB

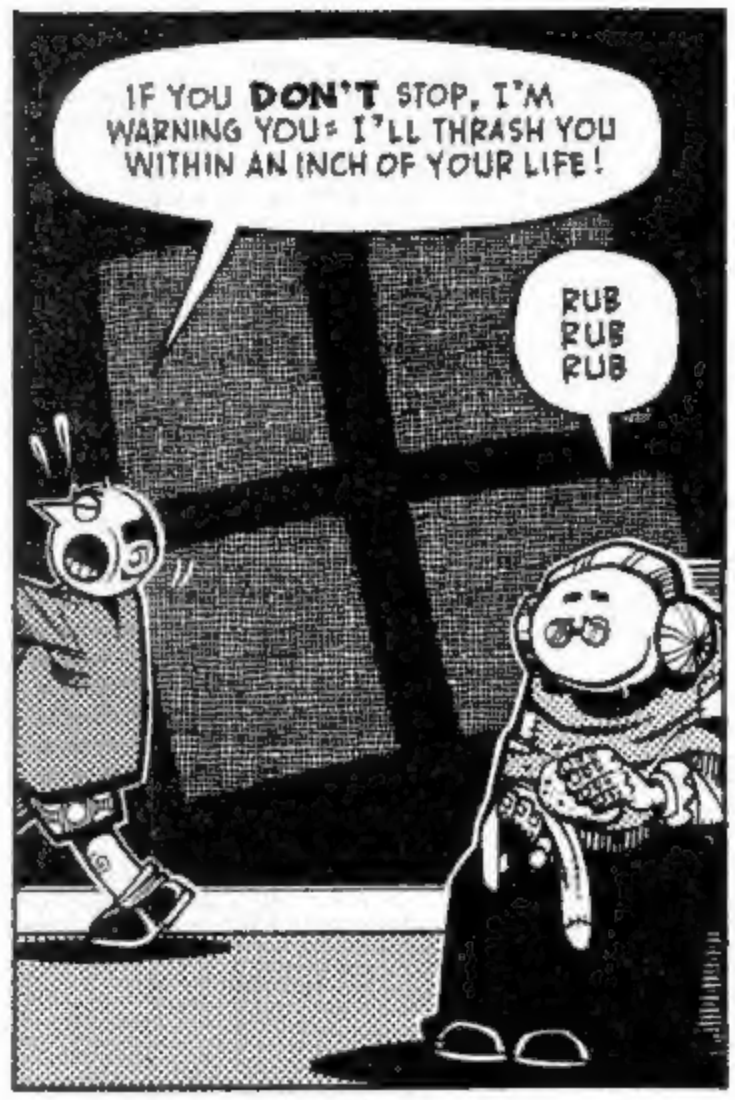
I'M RUBBING A SOCK WITH A PUMICE STONE
CHARMING.

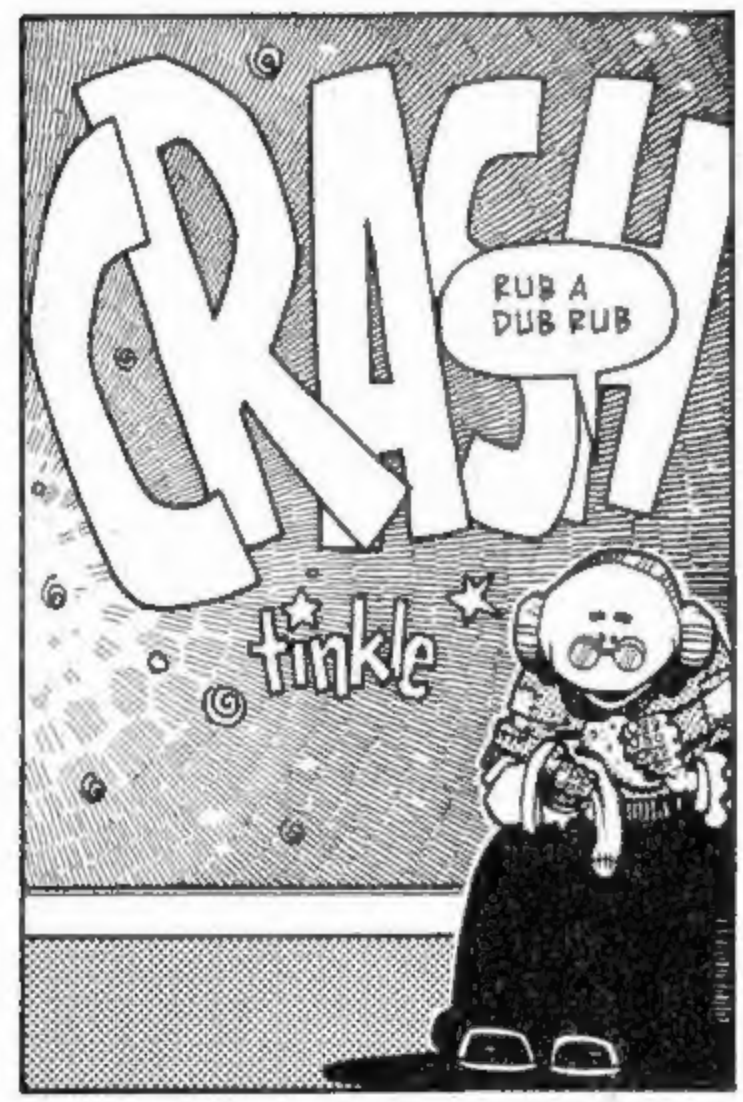

... BUT REALLY I MUST INSIST YOU GET A MOVE ON. I HAVE AN IMPORTANT INTERVIEW TO CONDUCT IN FIVE MINUTES AND I MUST HAVE THOSE TROUSERS IF I AM TO MAKE THE CORRECT IMPRESSION.
RUB RUBBY

CRASH

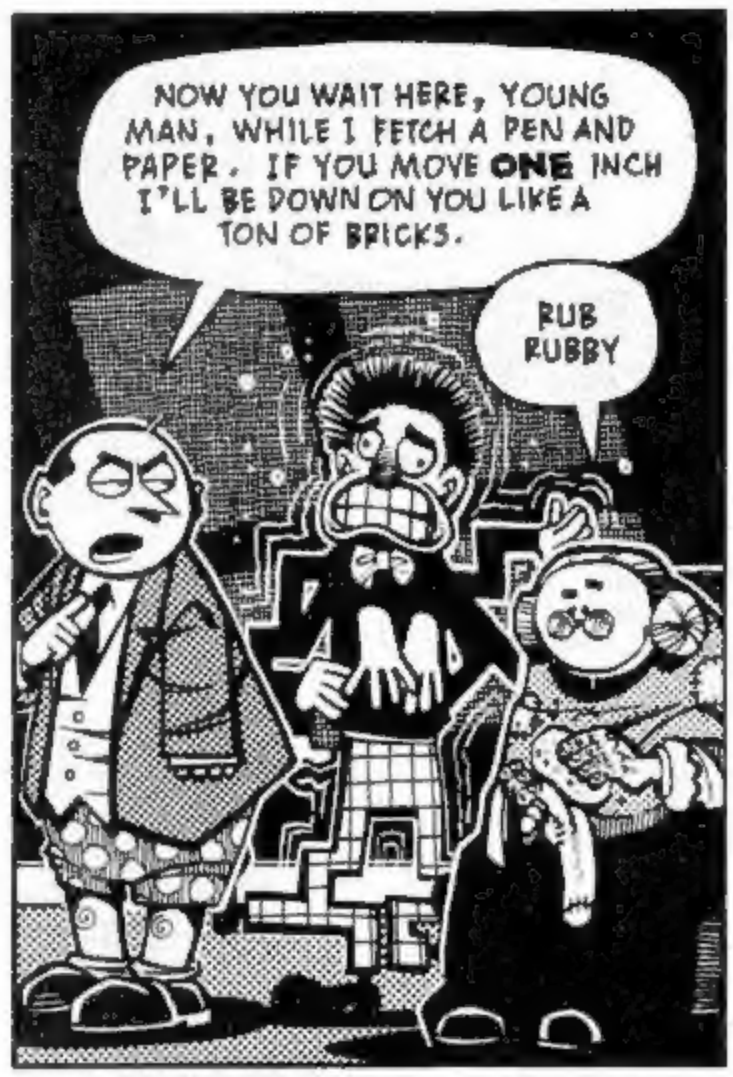

I SAY! YOU THERE!
YES, I'M TALKING TO YOU, YOUNG MAN!
AND NOW WE TURN IT OVER

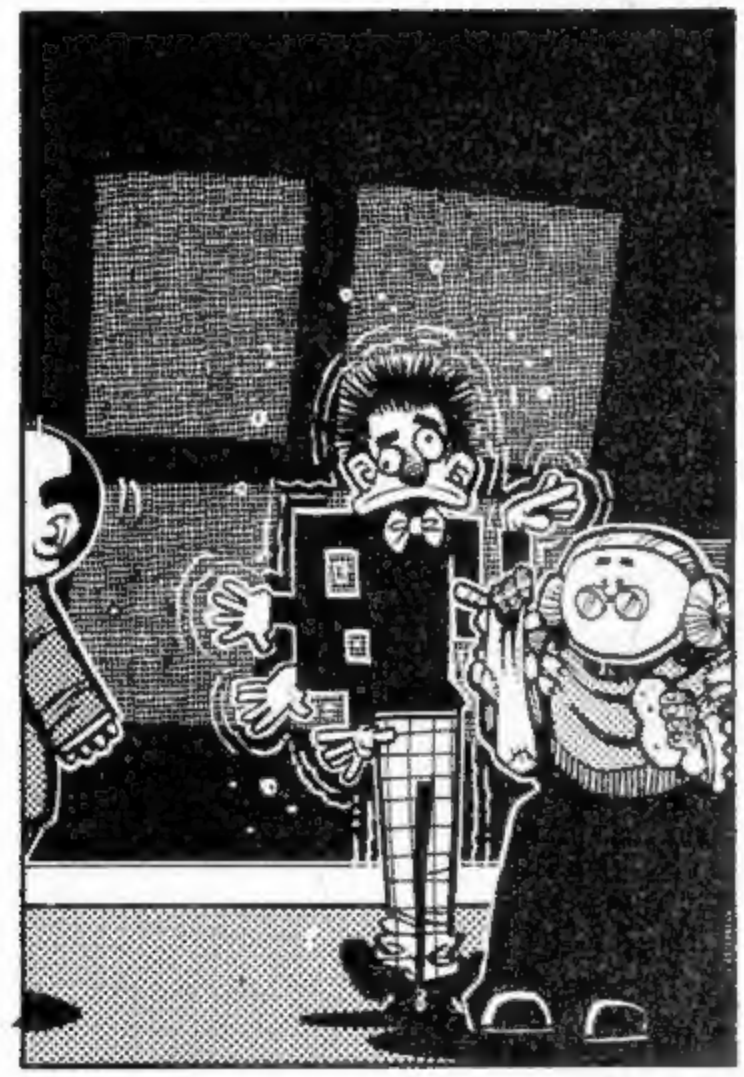
DON'T YOU PRETEND YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME! I KNOW YOUR TYPE! THINK IT'S CLEVER TO BE ALL HERKY-JERKY!
RUB RUB RUB

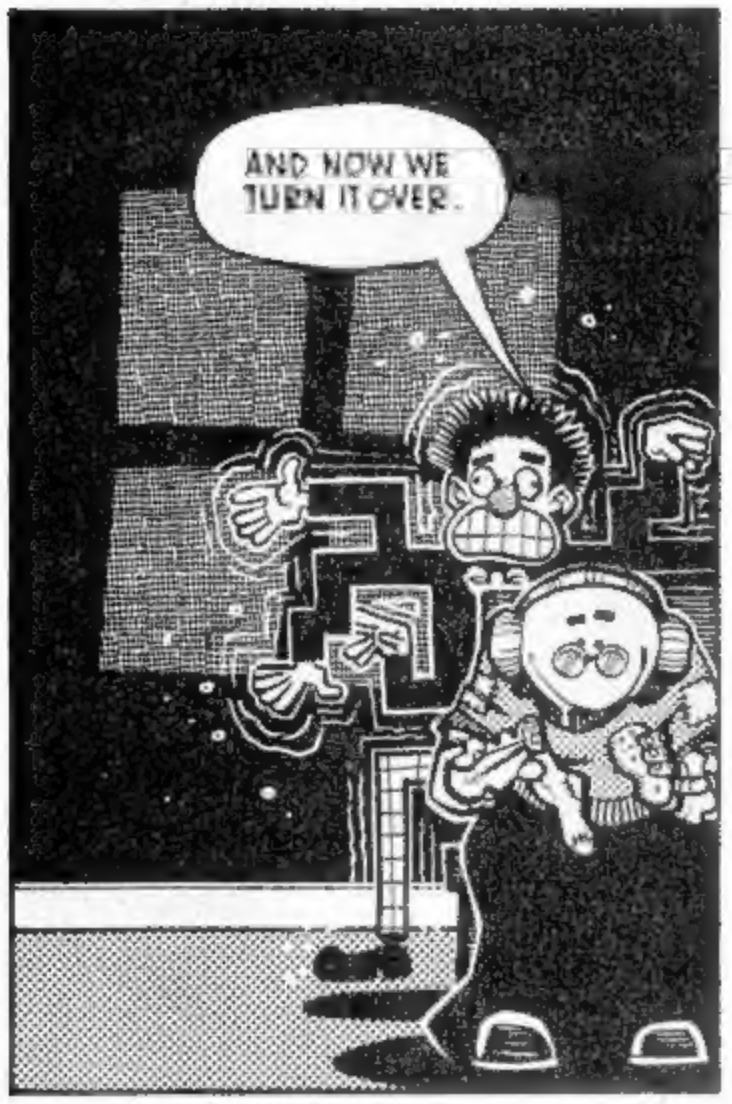

IF YOU DON'T STOP, I'M WARNING YOU- I'LL THRASH YOU WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR LIFE!
RUB RUB RUB

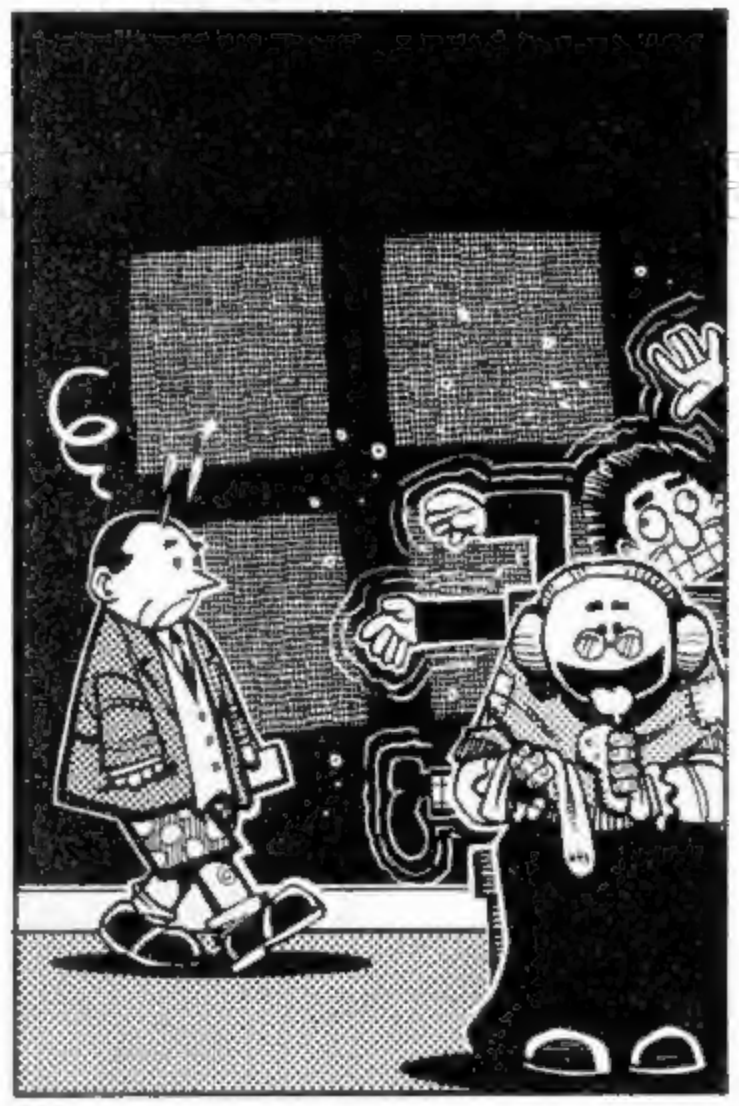

CRASH
RUB A DUB RUB
tinkle

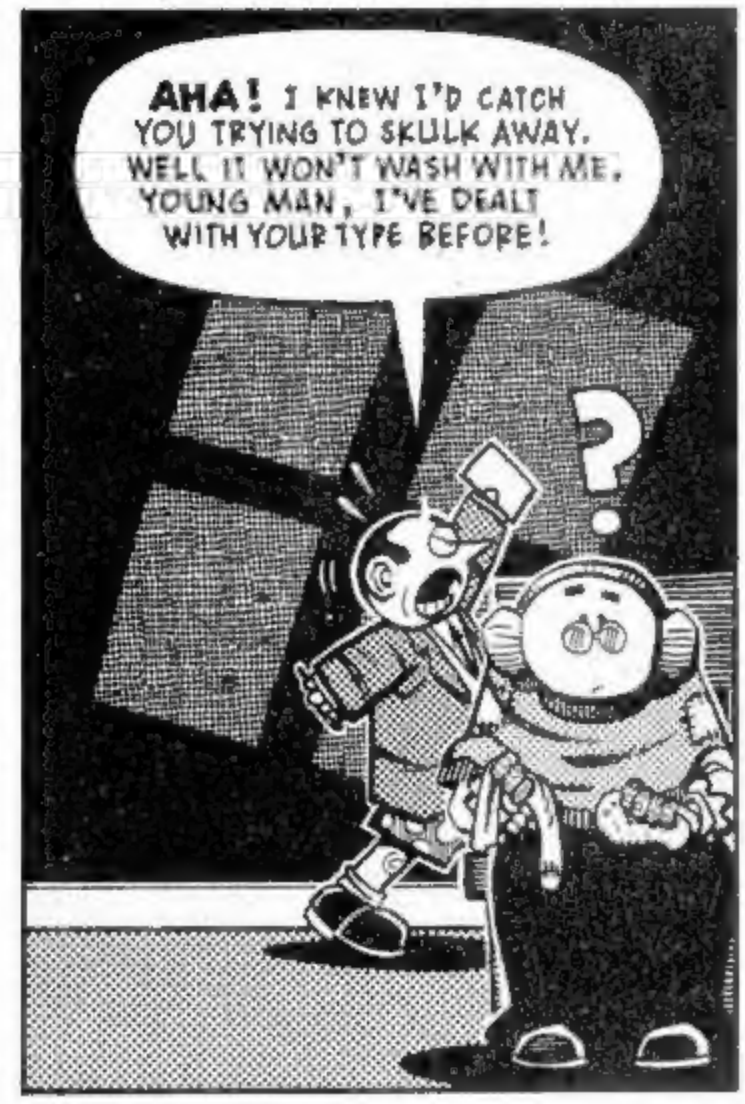
I'M RUBBING A SOCK WITH A PUMICE STONE


NOW YOU WAIT HERE, YOUNG MAN, WHILE I FETCH A PEN AND PAPER. IF YOU MOVE ONE INCH I'LL BE DOWN ON YOU LIKE A TON OF BRICKS.
RUB RUBBY




AND NOW WE TURN IT OVER.




AHA! I KNEW I'D CATCH YOU TRYING TO SKULK AWAY. WELL IT WON'T WASH WITH ME, YOUNG MAN, I'VE DEALT WITH YOUR TYPE BEFORE!
?

NOW WE'RE GOING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS. WHEN I ASK YOU A QUESTION YOU WILL ANSWER CLEARLY AND PROMPTLY AND YOU WILL ADDRESS ME AS 'SIR'. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? AND NO TOMFOOLERY OR SO HELP ME GOD I WON'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR MY ACTIONS.

NAME!

I SUPPOSE YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING CLEVER ~ WHAT DID I JUST TELL YOU?

NAME!

SIR!

IS THAT A FOREIGN NAME?

YOU'RE **NOT** LOCAL, ARE YOU?

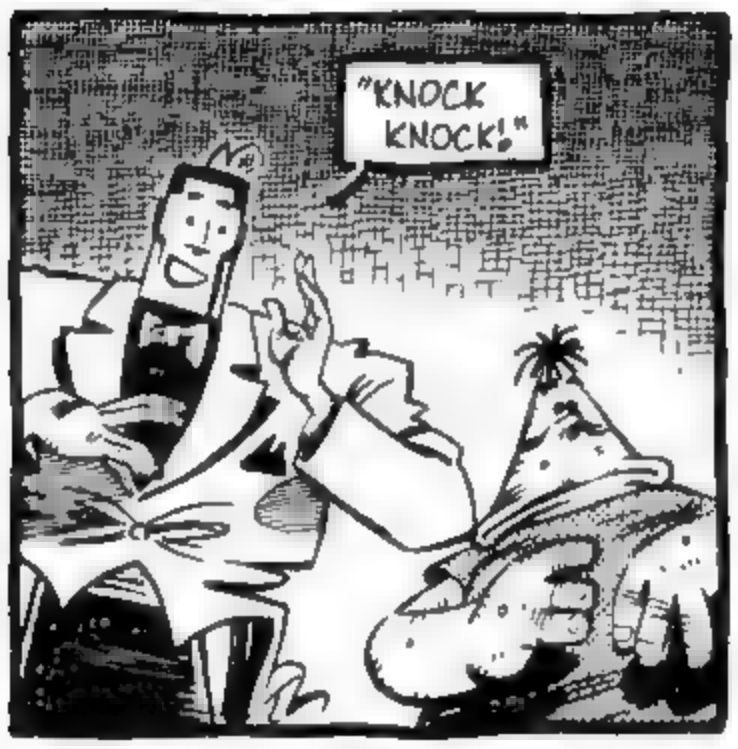
HERE, YOU WRITE IT DOWN. BE CAREFUL WITH THE PEN, IT'S A FOUNTAIN PEN ~ AN HEIRLOOM.

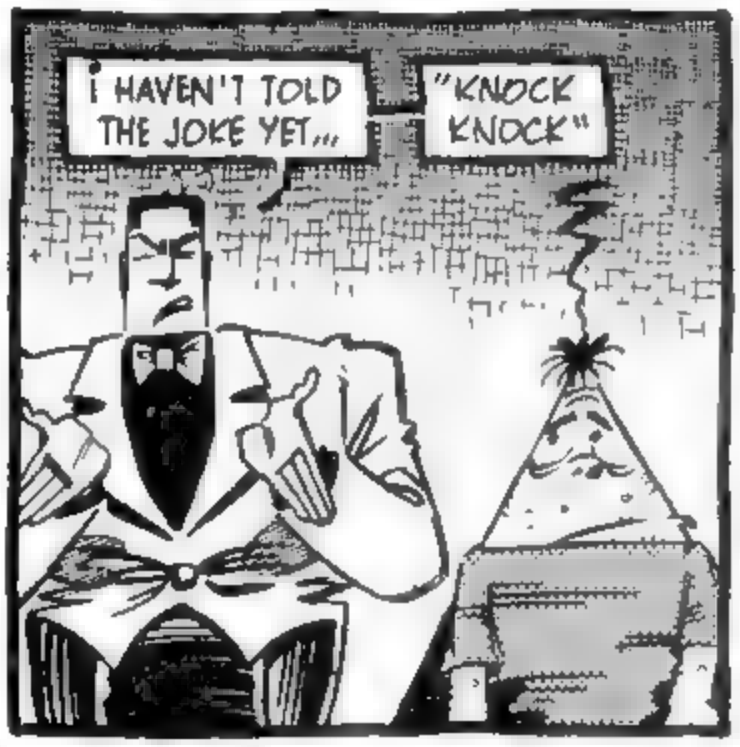
YOU REALISE I'LL HAVE TO FETCH ANOTHER PEN AND ANOTHER PAD. WELL THAT DOESN'T BOTHER **ME**, I COULD KEEP THIS UP ALL DAY LONG IF I HAVE TO, SO DON'T GO GETTING ANY CLEVER IDEAS, OH NO. YOU'D HAVE TO GET UP EARLY IN THE MORNING TO GET THE BETTER OF ME. OH MY YES, YOU'D HAVE TO STAY UP **ALL NIGHT.**

HAS ANYBODY SEEN MY LOOFAH?

End

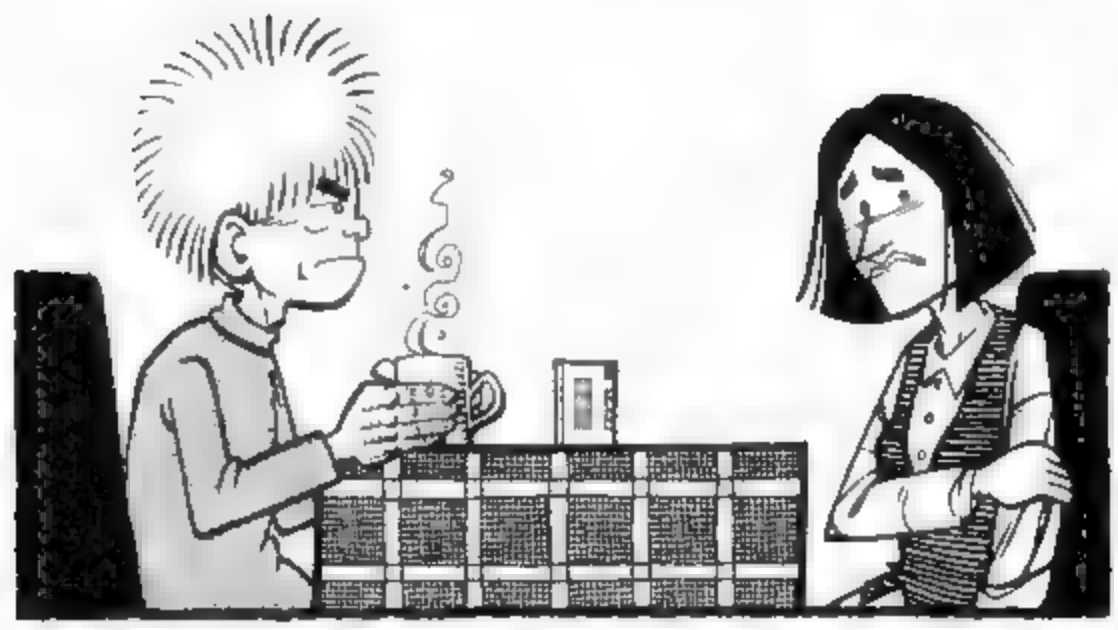
# ART d'ECCO and the GUMP in Knock Knock

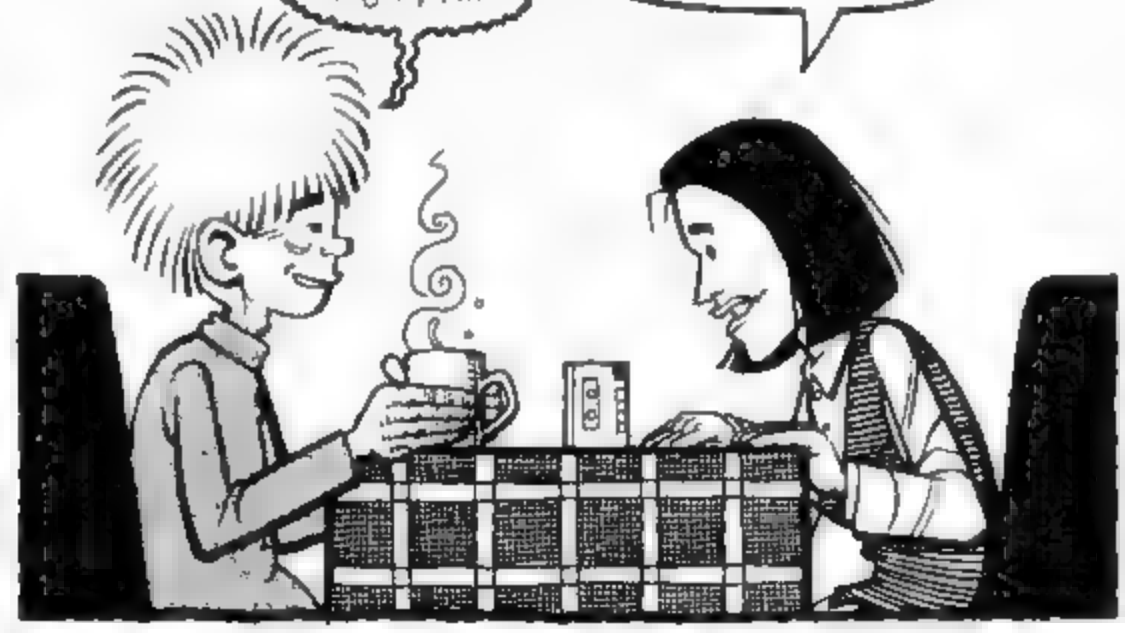


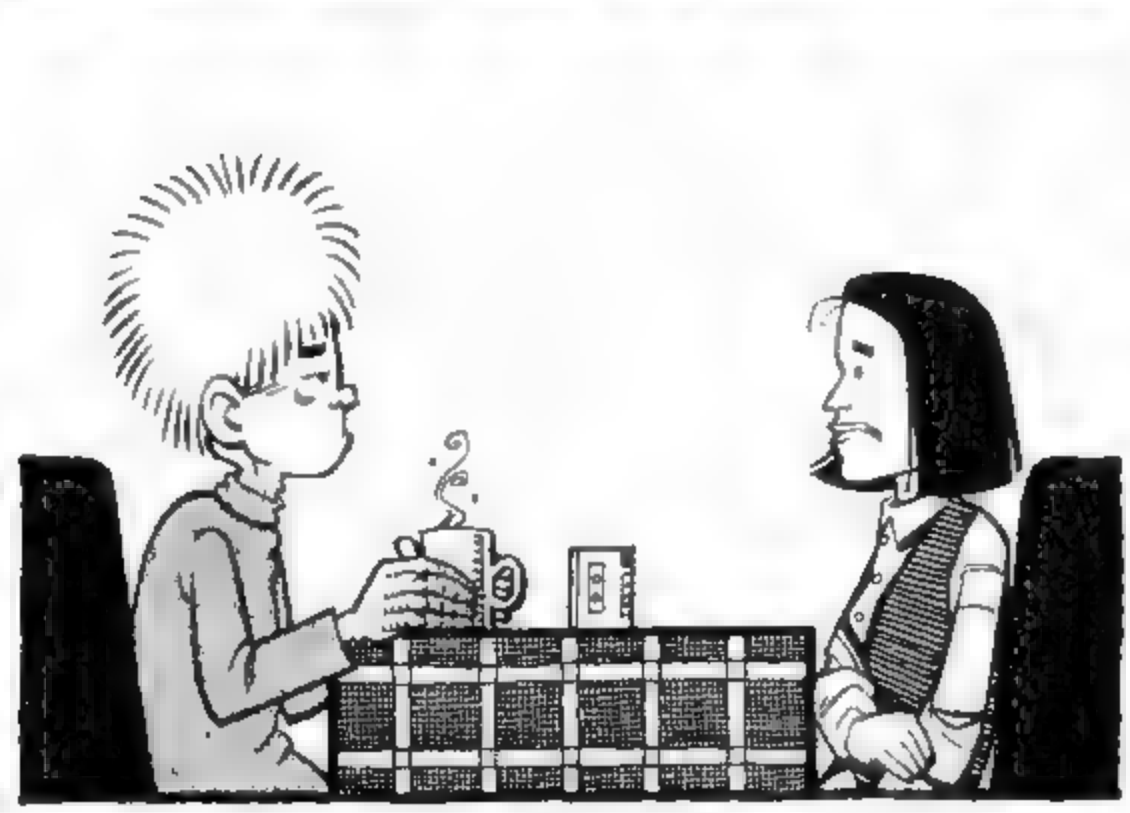


# THE REDOUBTABLE TARQUIN

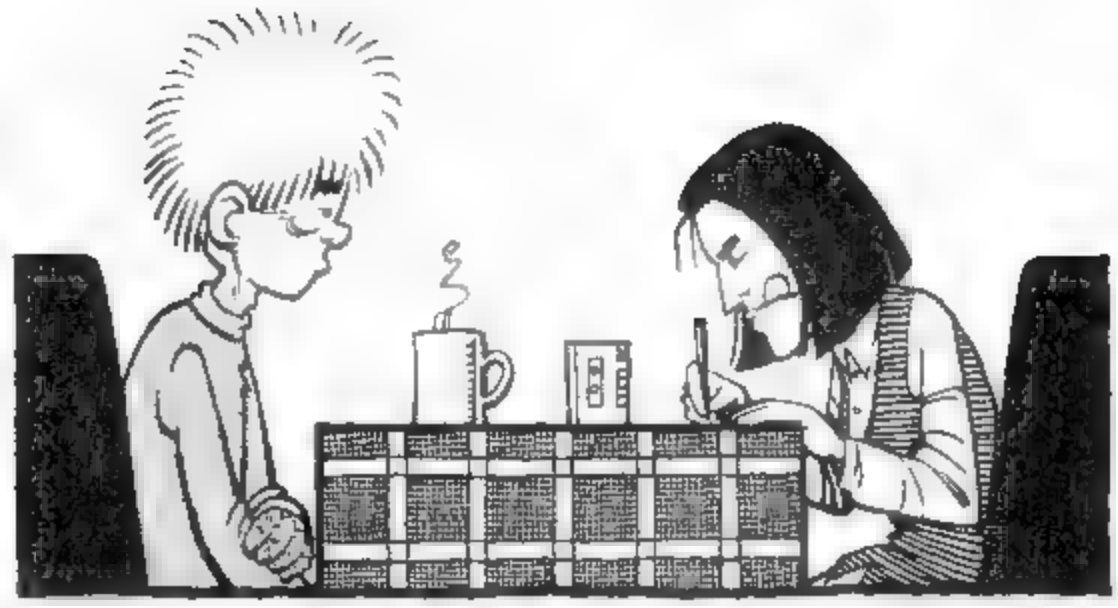
investigates MYSTICISM and THE SUBLIME in WOMEN'S ART IN AOTEAROA



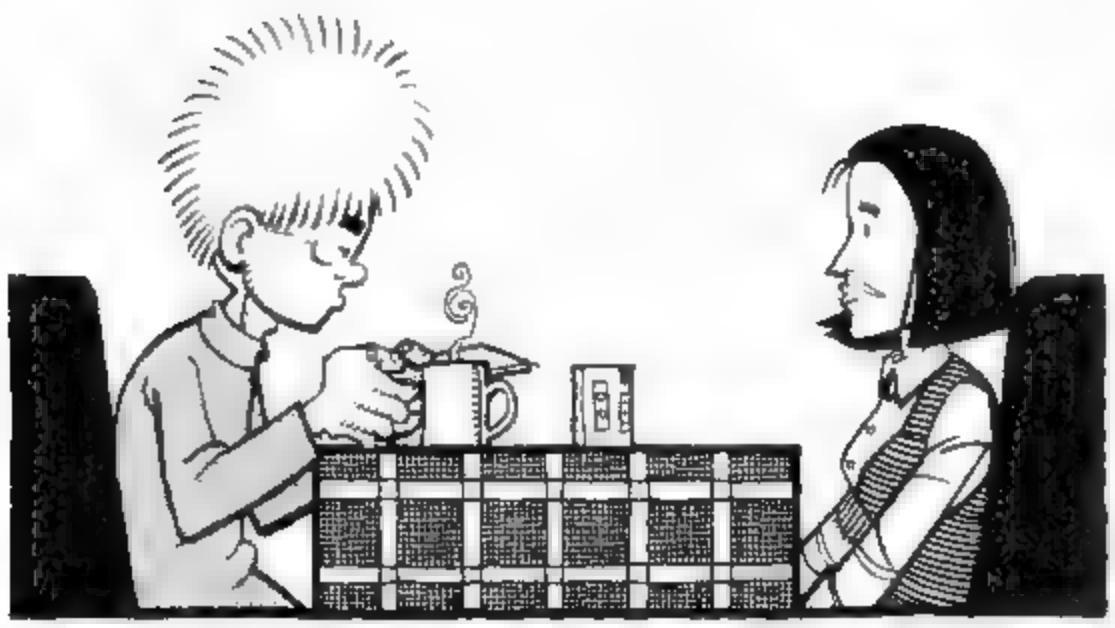




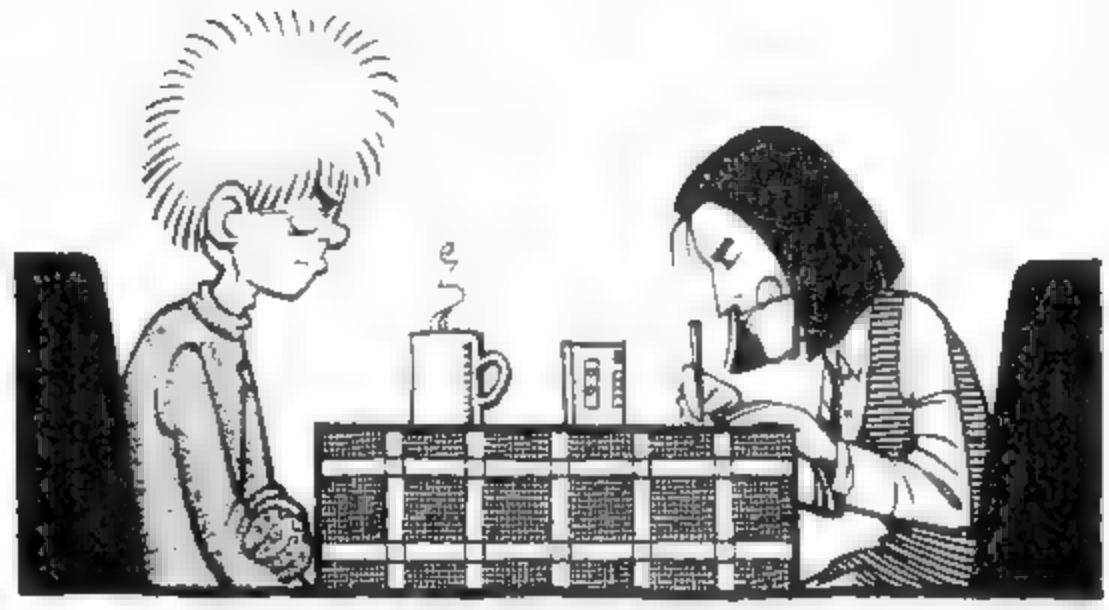
Now, it's a lovely single, Kim, would you mind signing this please?
CERTAINLY TARQUIN



It's Tarquyn with a 'y', Kim. I thought that was quite clear in my letter
No, I'm sorry, you'll have to do it again

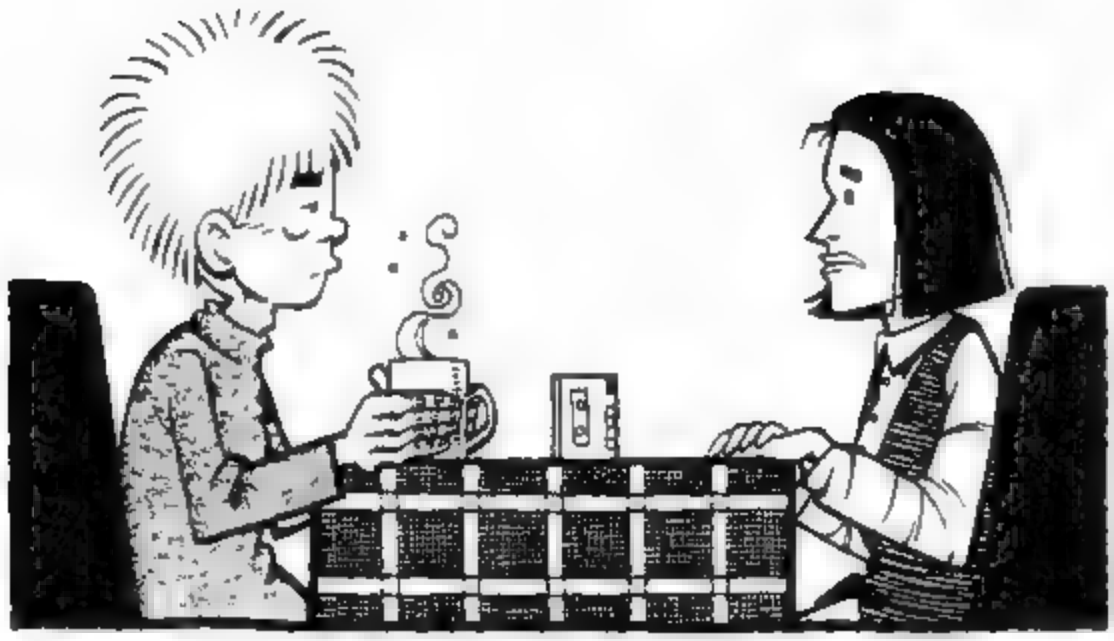


And could you try to write a bit more legibly this time, hmmnhh?
OH... OKAY...



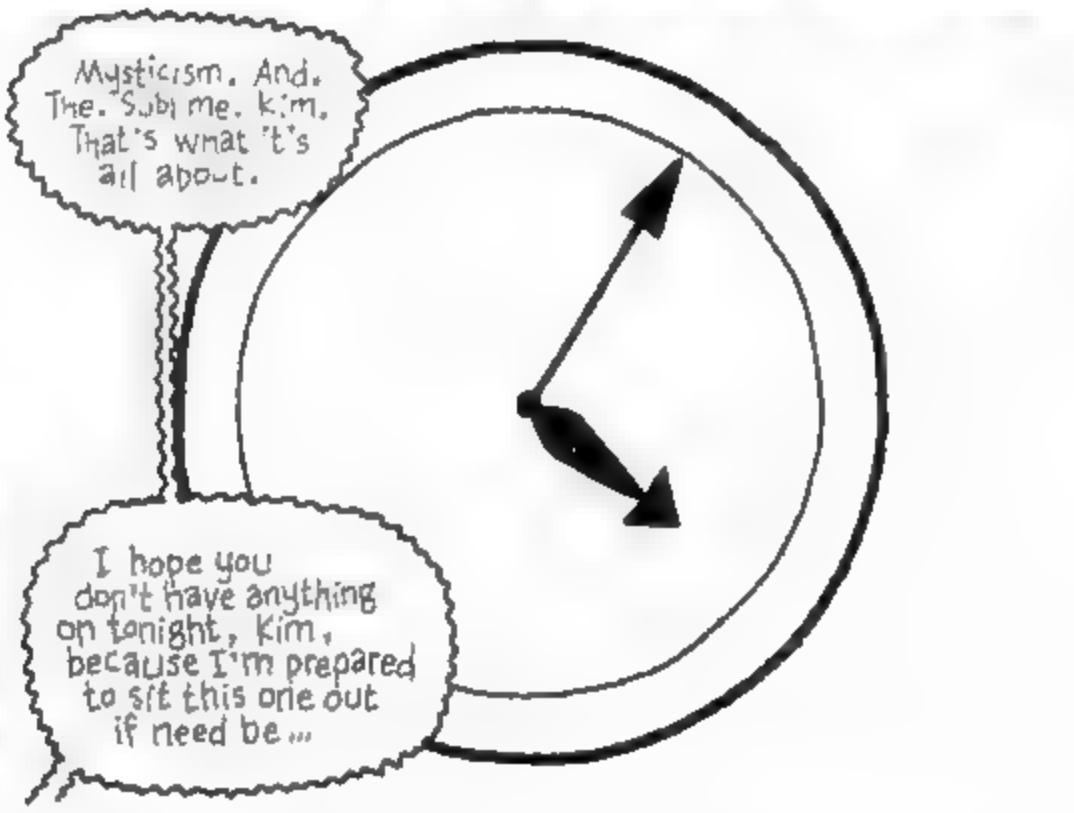
Fabulous, Kim.
You really are a great talent in your own funny old way.

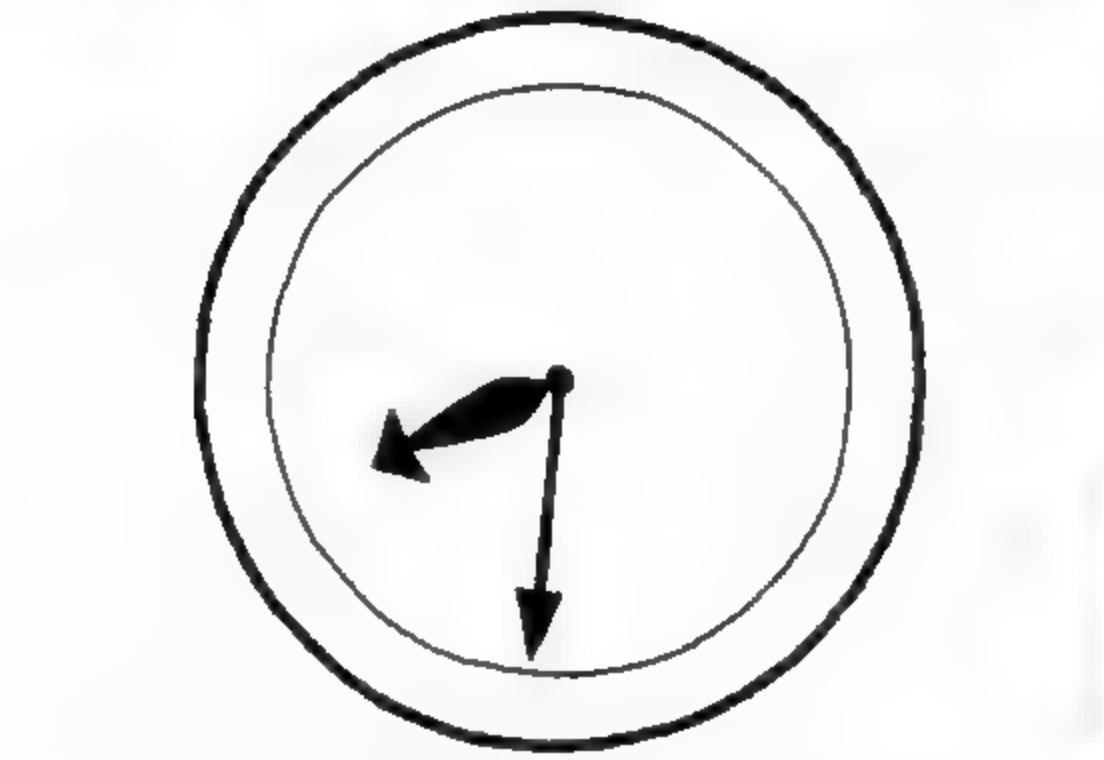
Now, Kim, about the single...
What's it about, Kim?
IT'S ABOUT ROAD SAFETY, TARQUYN



Think very carefully

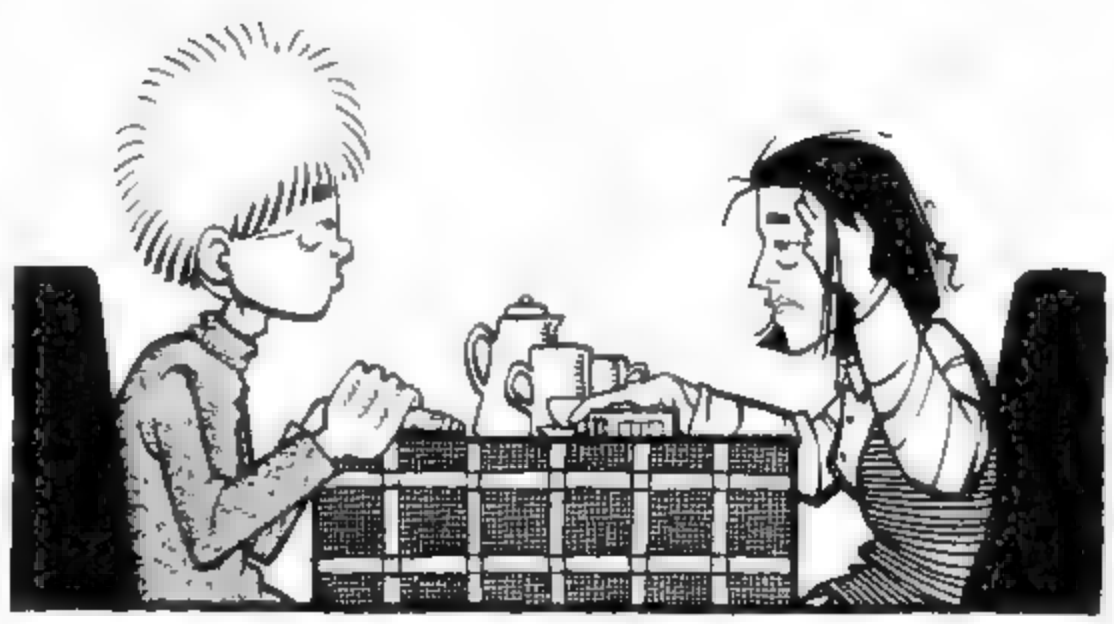
IT IS ABOUT ROAD SAFETY, TARQUYN
You're not being very cooperative Kim
BUT TARQUYN...


Mysticism. And. The. Sub; me. k:m. That's what 't's all about.
I hope you don't have anything on tonight, Kim, because I'm prepared to sit this one out if need be...

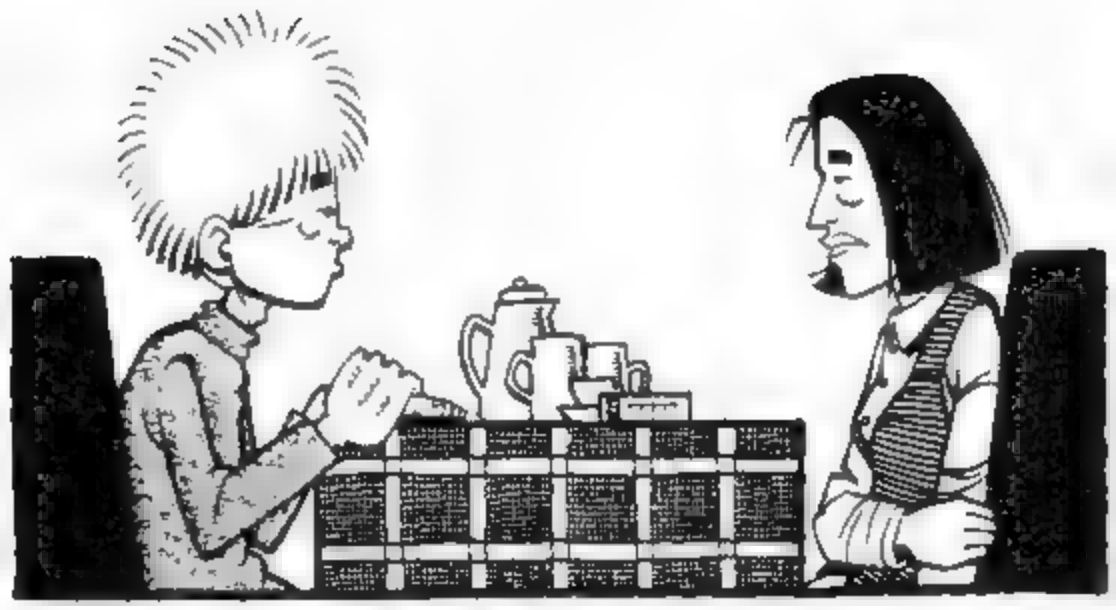


WELL, I SUPPOSE THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING ABOUT MYTH AND RITUAL IN THERE SOMEWHERE.
"Mysticism and the sublime."
... MYSTICISM AND THE SUBLIME.

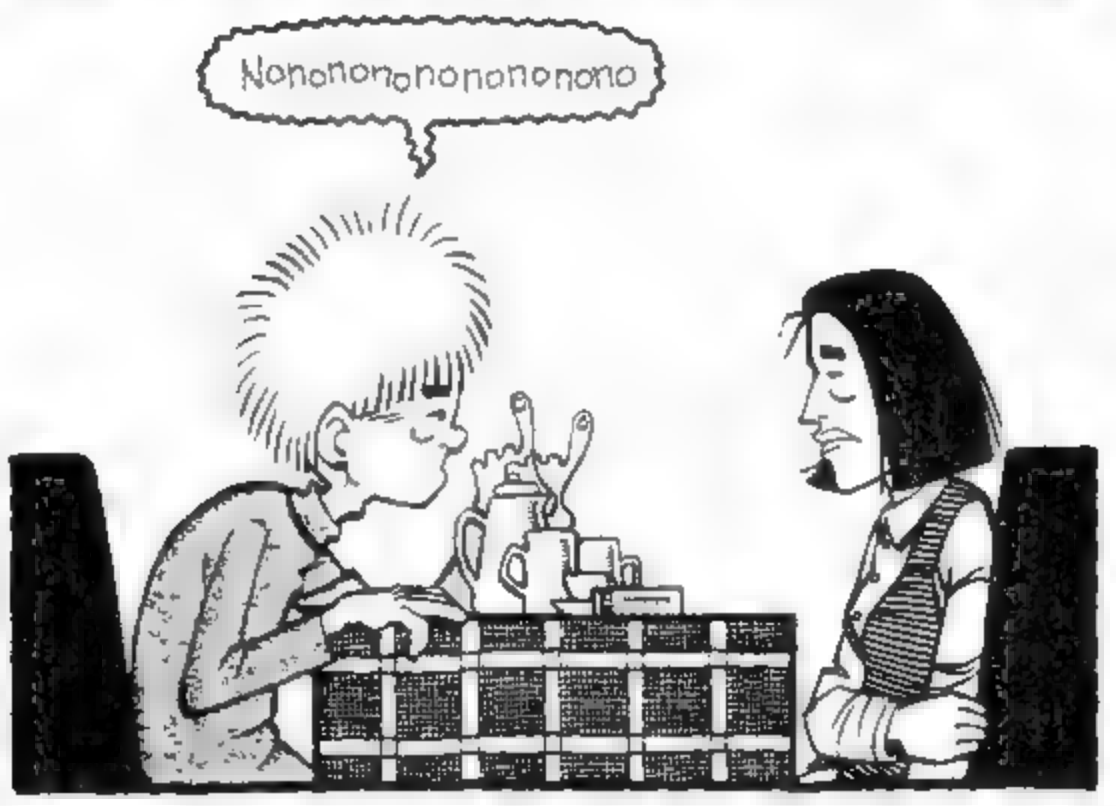
There, that wasn't so difficult now, wasn't it?
Sigh



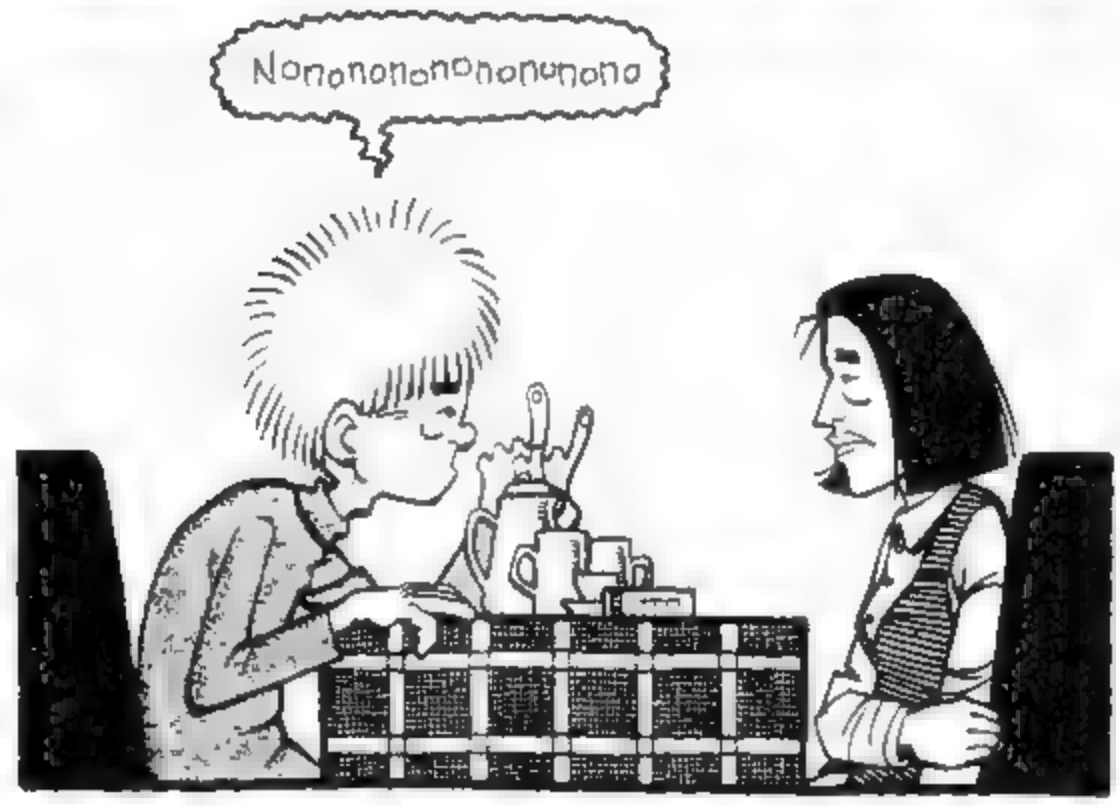
Kim?
YES TARQUYN?



Kim, I like you.
WELL, I LIKE YOU TOO TARQUYN.


Nononononononononono

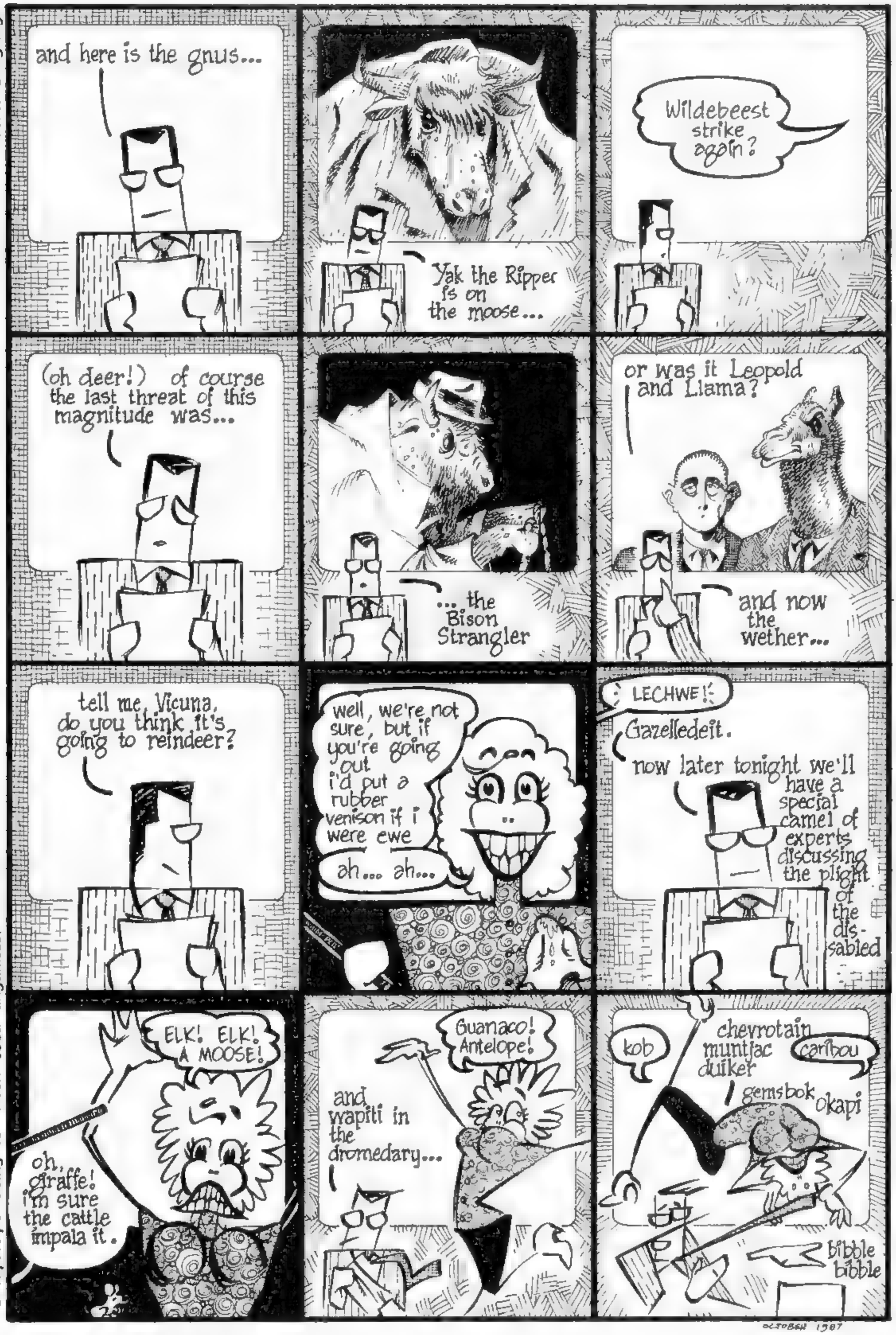
I like you... in a special way.
WELL I LIKE YOU IN A SPECIAL WAY TOO TARQUYN.


Nononononononononono

In a dirty way.

I'm glad we can talk about these feelings, Kim.
AL RL 92

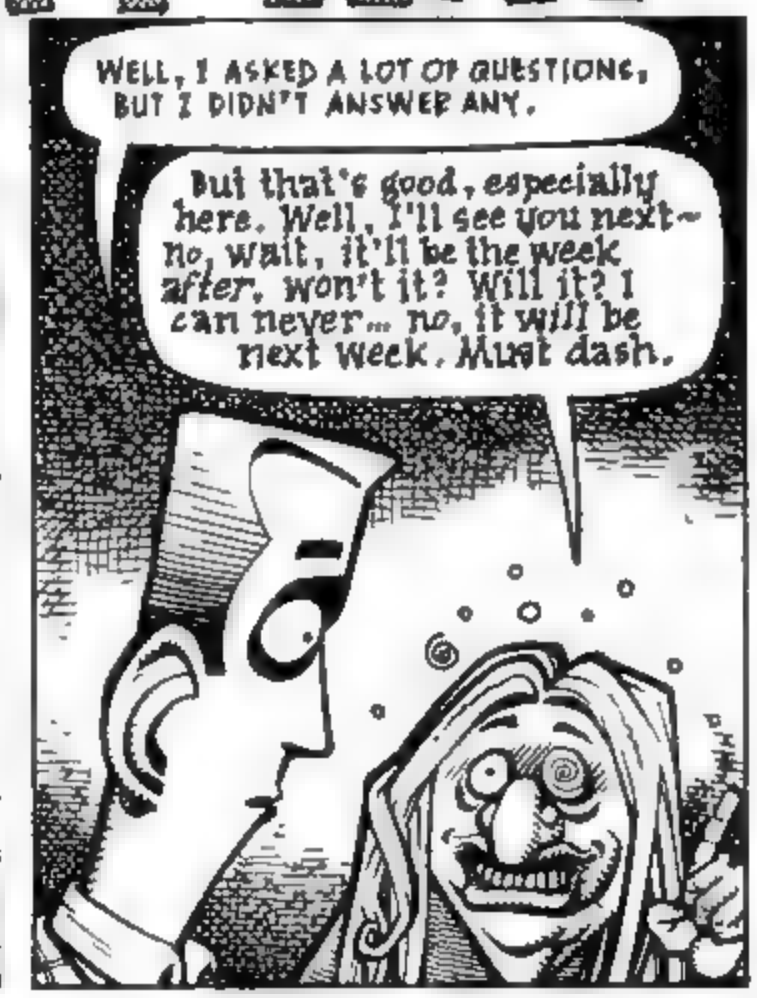
A & R Langridge

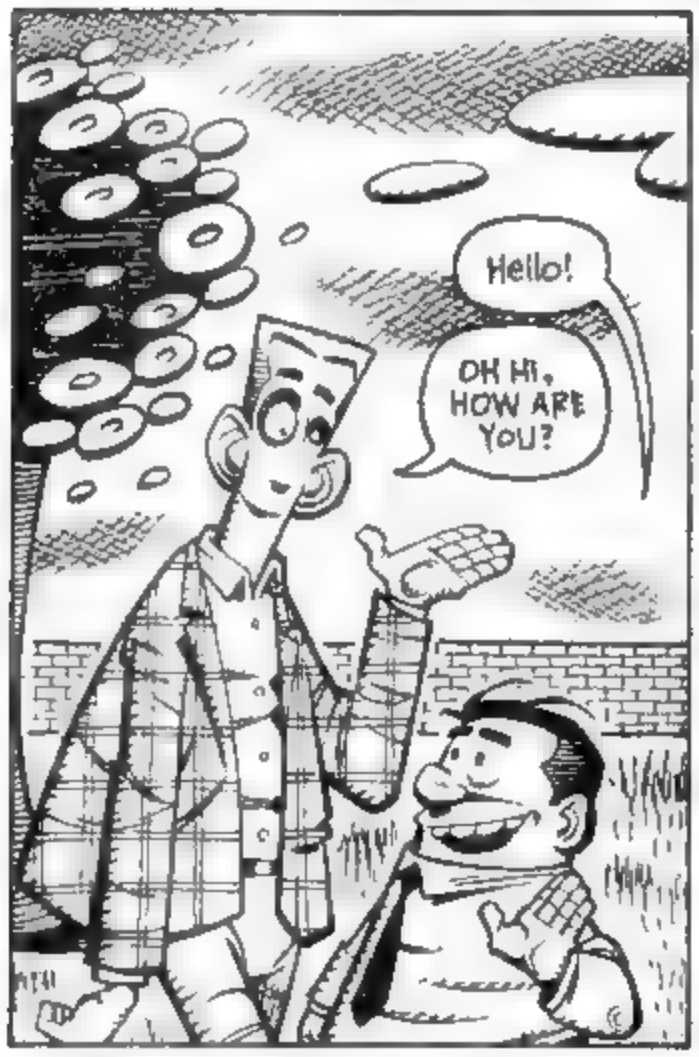


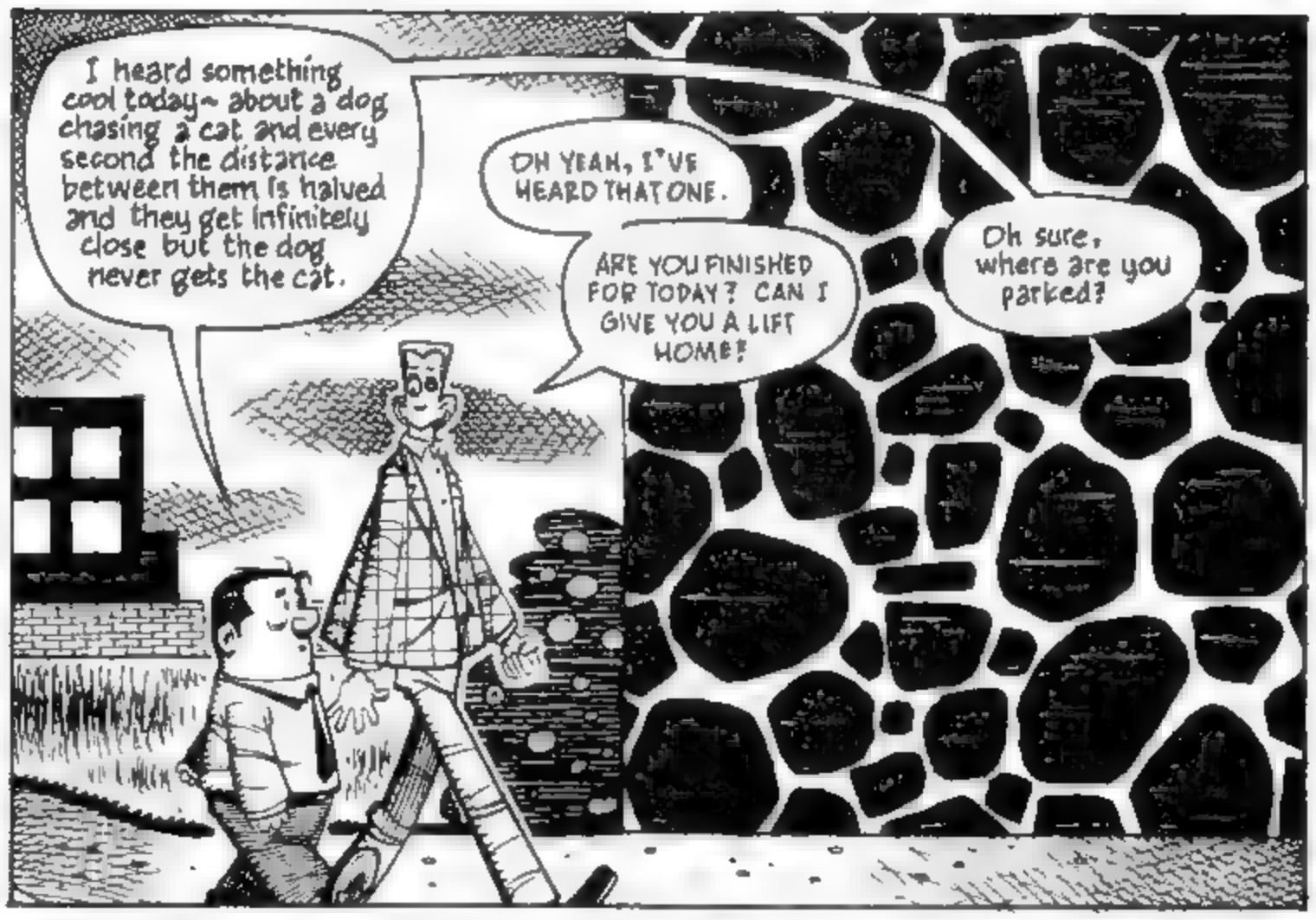

Everybody's doing it (even-toed ungulates)

OCTOBER 1987

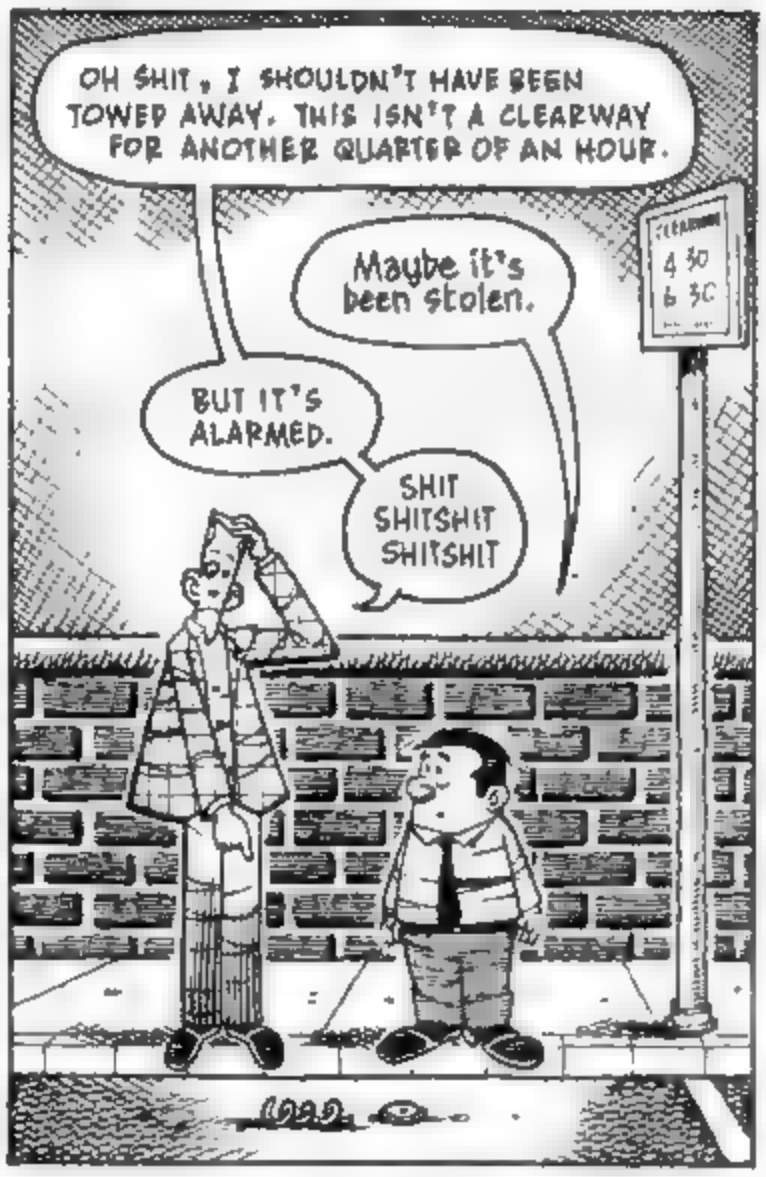
# The JOURNEY HALFWAY

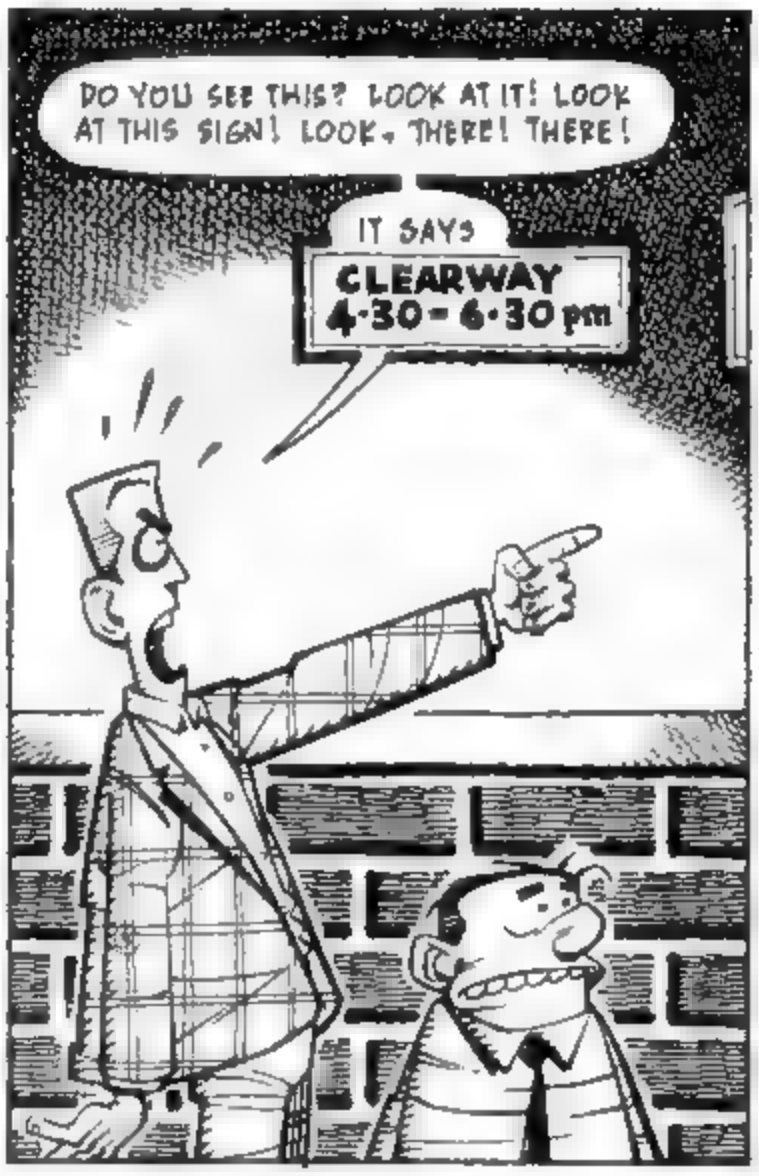



Hello!
OH HI, HOW ARE YOU?

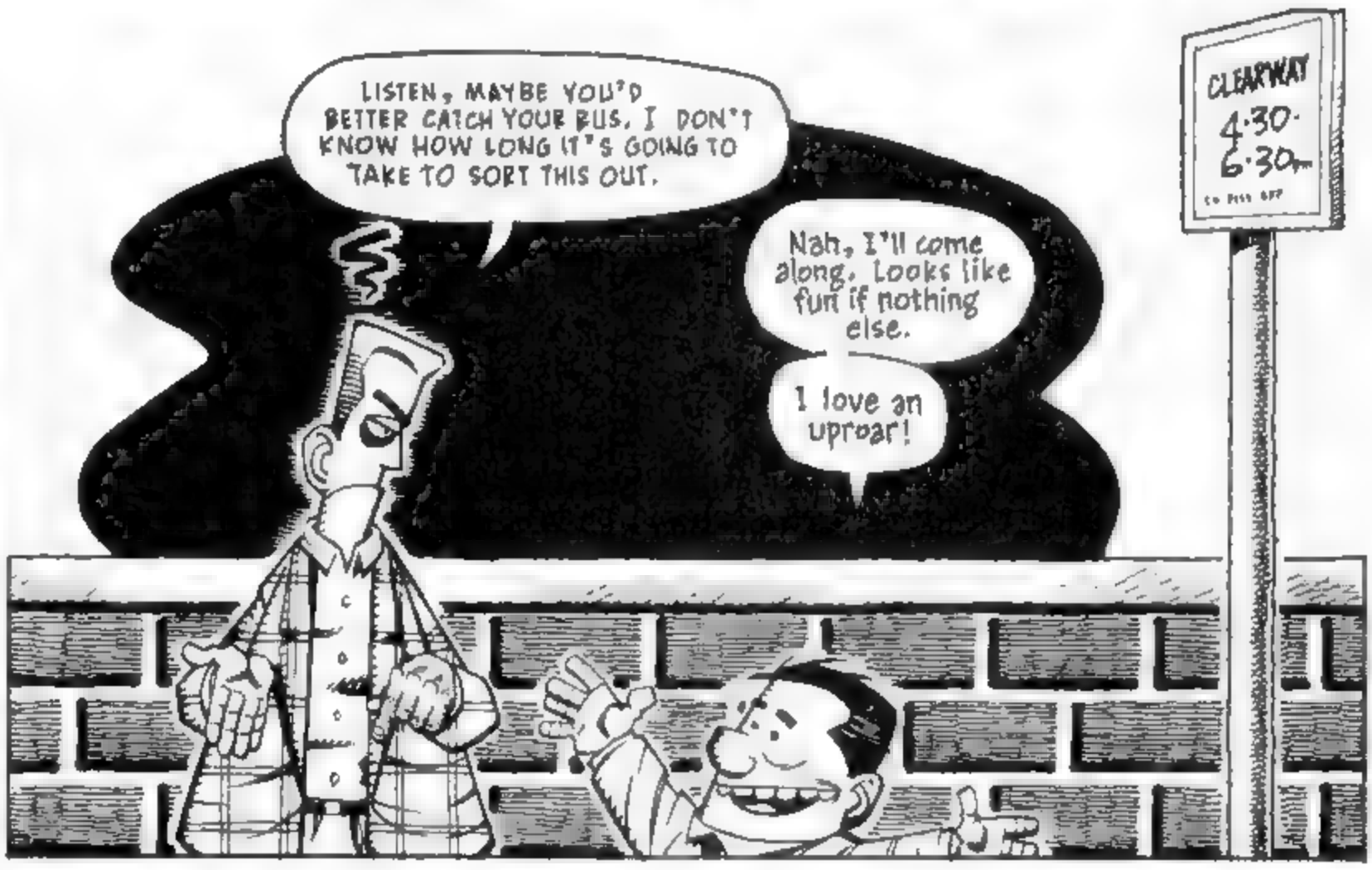

I heard something cool today~ about a dog chasing a cat and every second the distance between them is halved and they get infinitely close but the dog never gets the cat.
OH YEAH, I'VE HEARD THAT ONE.
ARE YOU FINISHED FOR TODAY? CAN I GIVE YOU A LIFT HOME?
Oh sure, where are you parked?

YAK BLAH YAK YAK BLAH YAK YAK

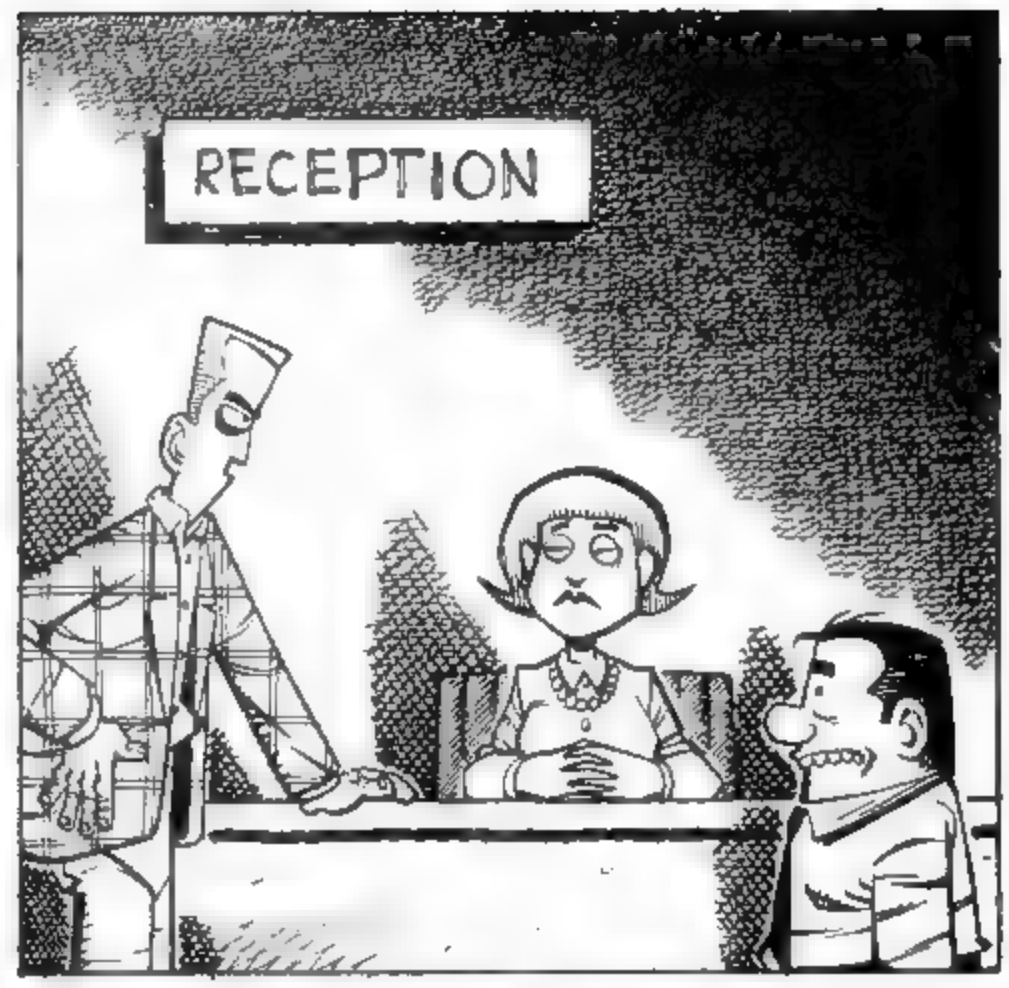

OH SHIT, I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN TOWED AWAY. THIS ISN'T A CLEARWAY FOR ANOTHER QUARTER OF AN HOUR.
Maybe it's been stolen.
BUT IT'S ALARMED.
SHIT SHITSHIT SHITSHIT
4 30
6 30

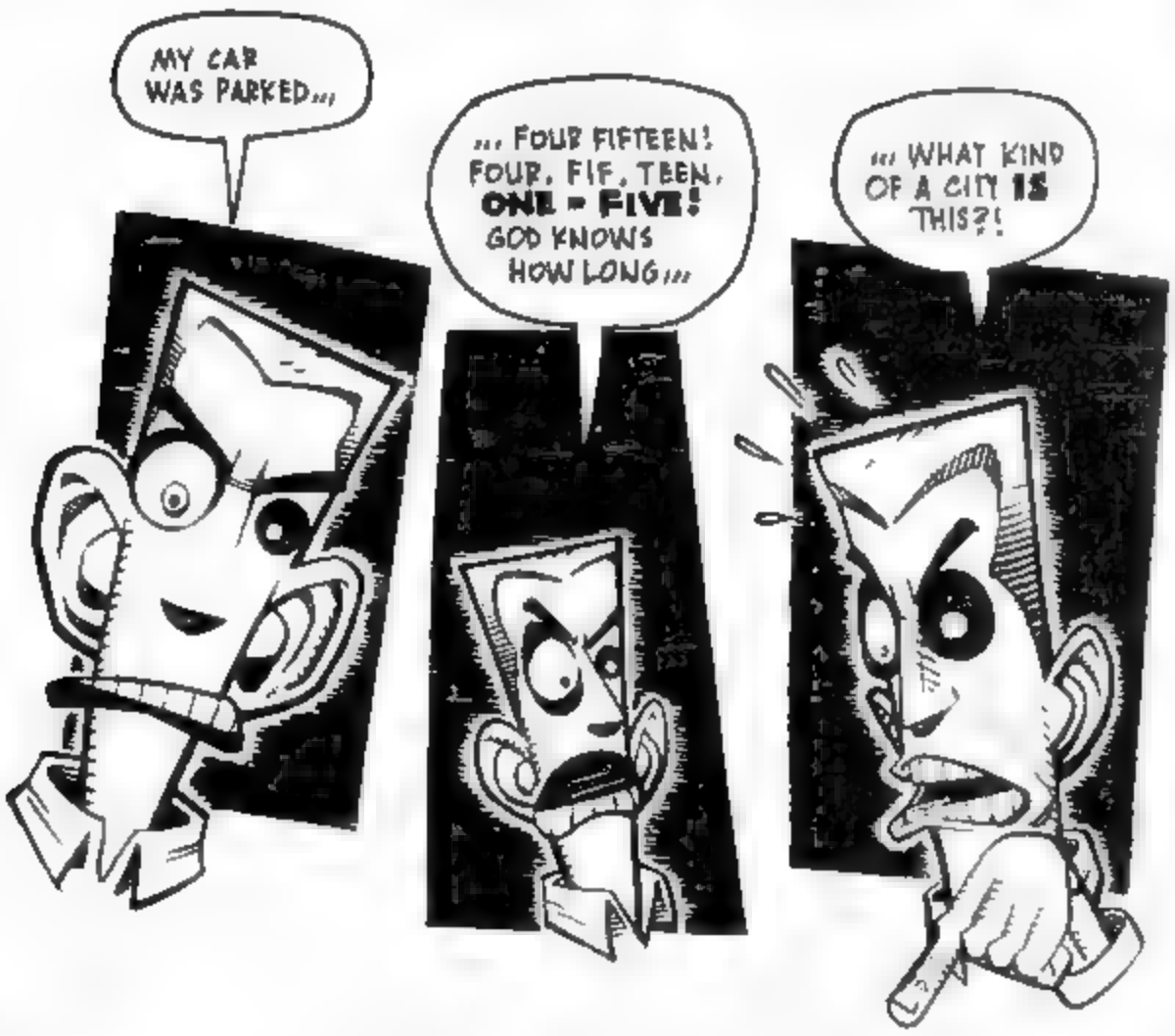

DO YOU SEE THIS? LOOK AT IT! LOOK AT THIS SIGN! LOOK, THERE! THERE!
IT SAYS
CLEARWAY 4·30 - 6·30 pm

NOW WHAT THE FUCK DO THEY THINK THEY'RE DOING TOWING CARS AWAY AT A QUARTER PAST, HUH?! IT MUST BE THOSE BASTARDS, THERE'S NOTHING ELSE IT COULD BE!
I'M GOING TO KILL SOMEBODY! THEY CAN'T DO THIS TO PEOPLE!!


LISTEN, MAYBE YOU'D BETTER CATCH YOUR BUS. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT'S GOING TO TAKE TO SORT THIS OUT.
Nah, I'll come along. Looks like fun if nothing else.
I love an uproar!
CLEARWAY 4·30- 6·30

COUNCIL BUILDING


RECEPTION


MY CAR WAS PARKED...
... FOUR FIFTEEN! FOUR, FIF, TEEN, ONE - FIVE! GOD KNOWS HOW LONG...
... WHAT KIND OF A CITY IS THIS?!

*

AS I'VE SAID ALREADY, ALL ENQUIRIES ABOUT PARKING VIOLATIONS ARE ON THE ELEVENTH FLOOR.

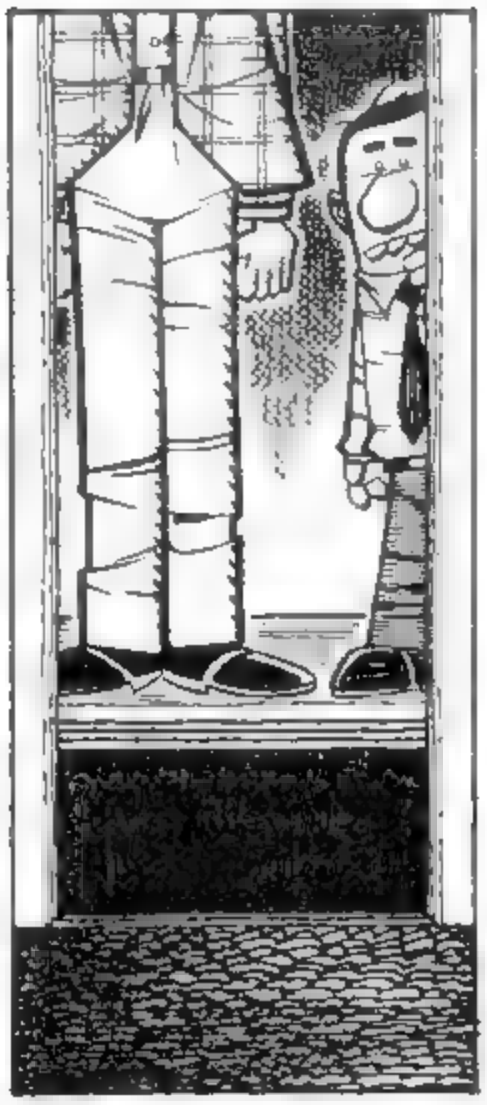
AND THEY CLOSE UP AT FIVE SHARP!

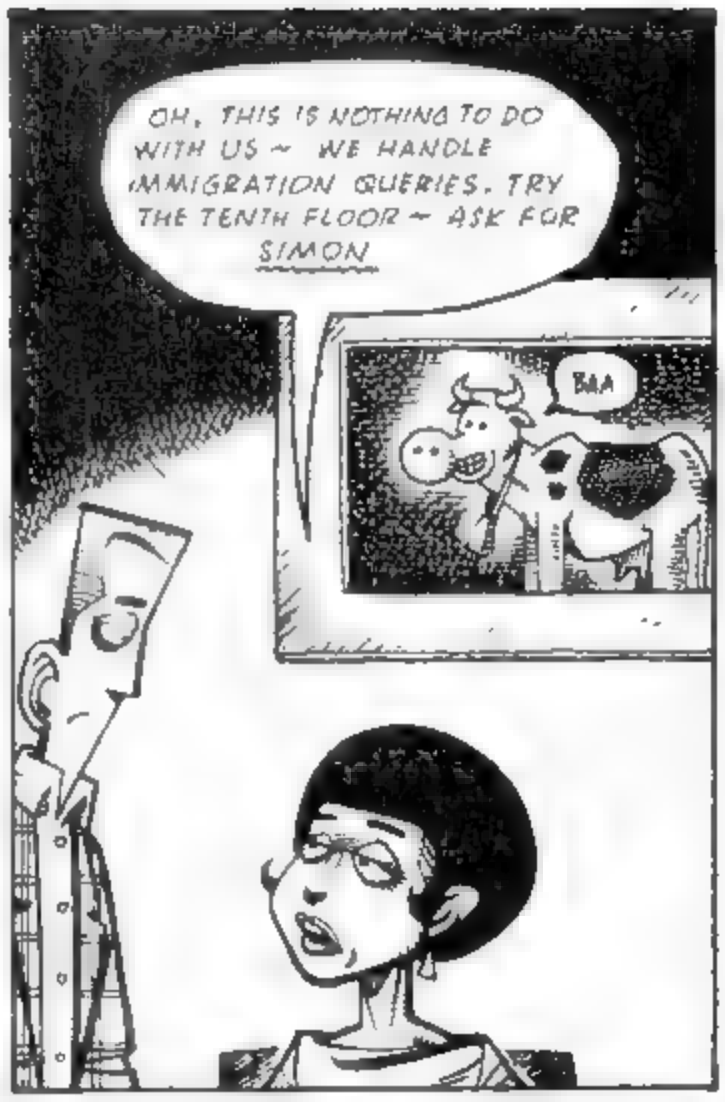
A 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 V

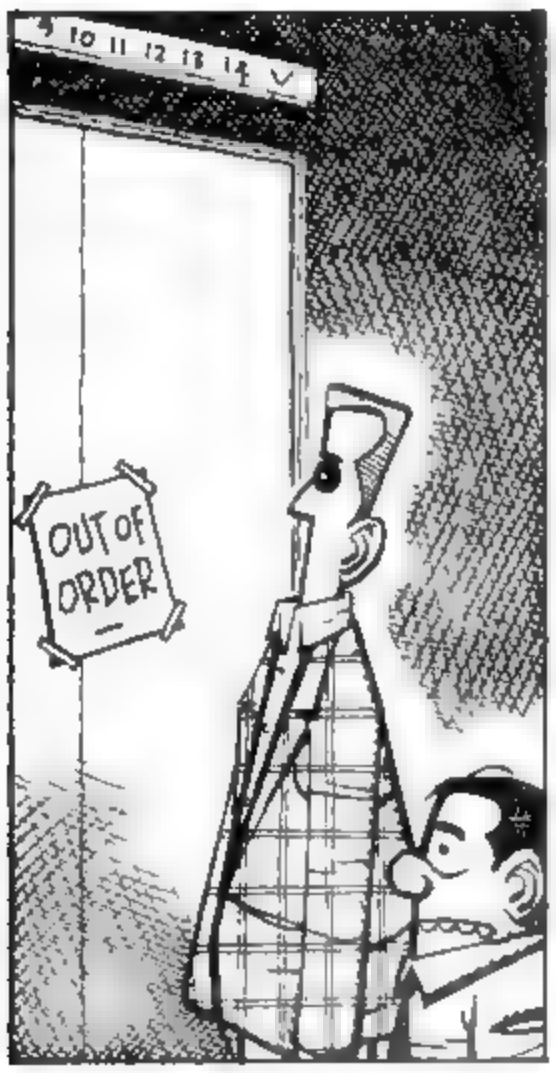
6 7 8 9 10 11

6 7 8 9 10 11

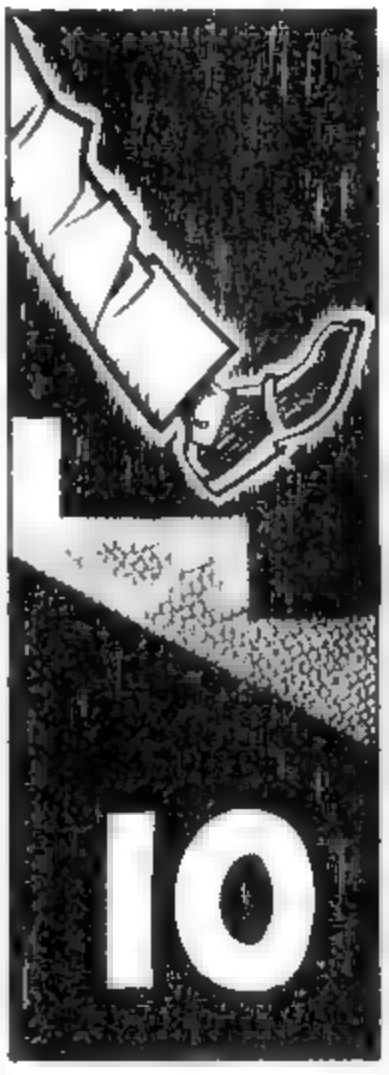
DING
6 7 8 9 10 11



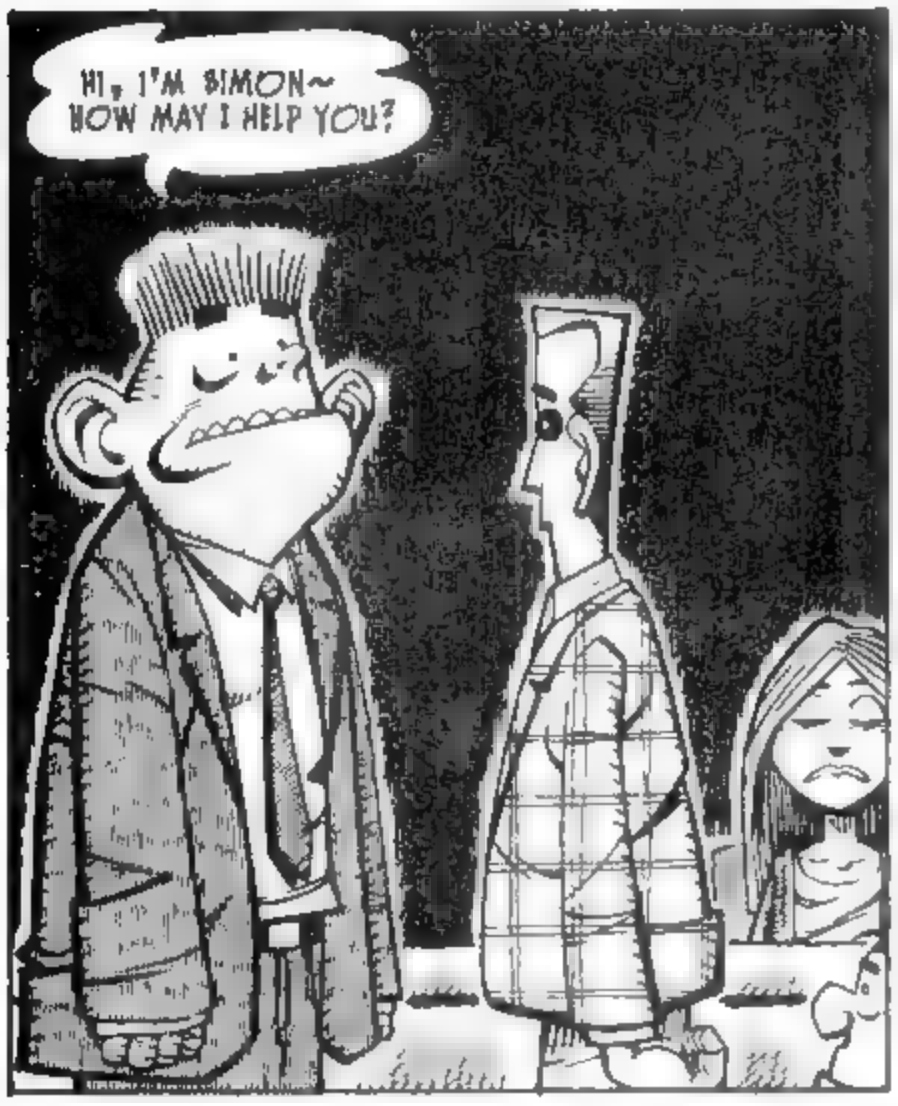

OH, THIS IS NOTHING TO DO WITH US ~ WE HANDLE IMMIGRATION QUERIES. TRY THE TENTH FLOOR ~ ASK FOR SIMON
BAA

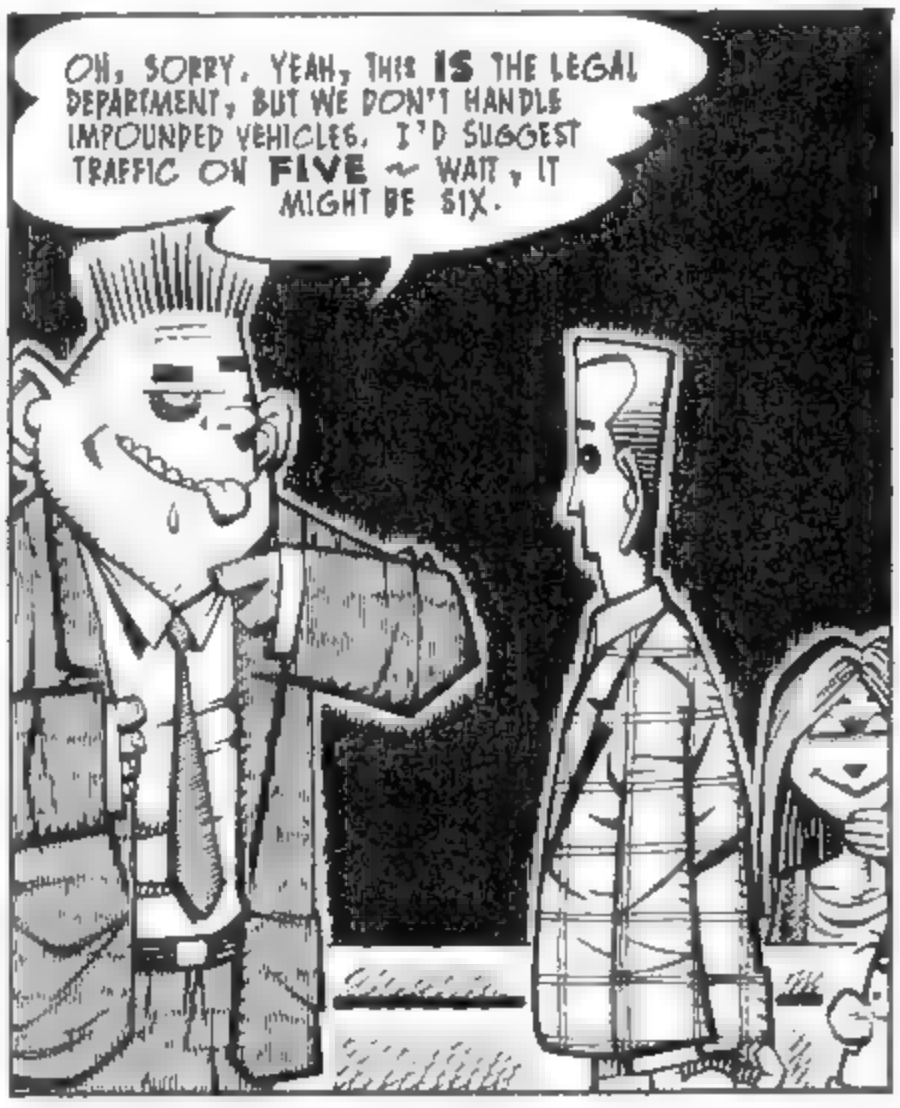

10 11 12 13 14
OUT OF ORDER

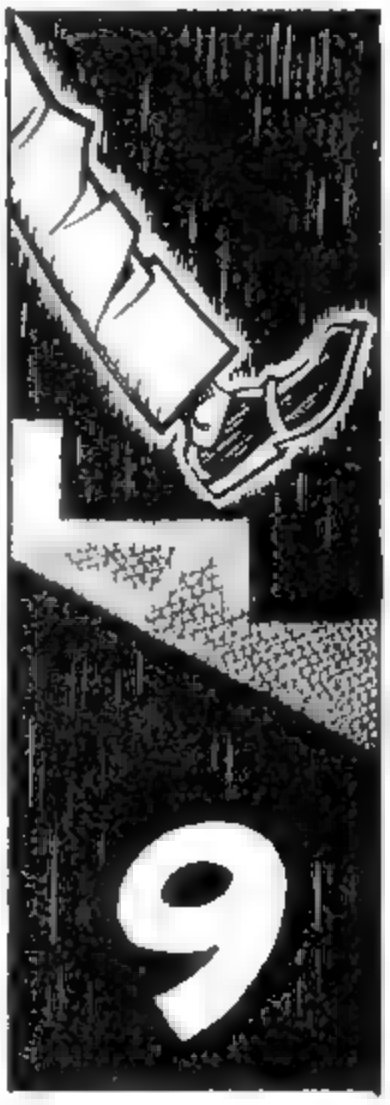
HAVE A NICE WEEKEND.


10

HELLO, CAN I SEE... IS IT SIMON, PLEASE?
MISTER BA-AAATES!

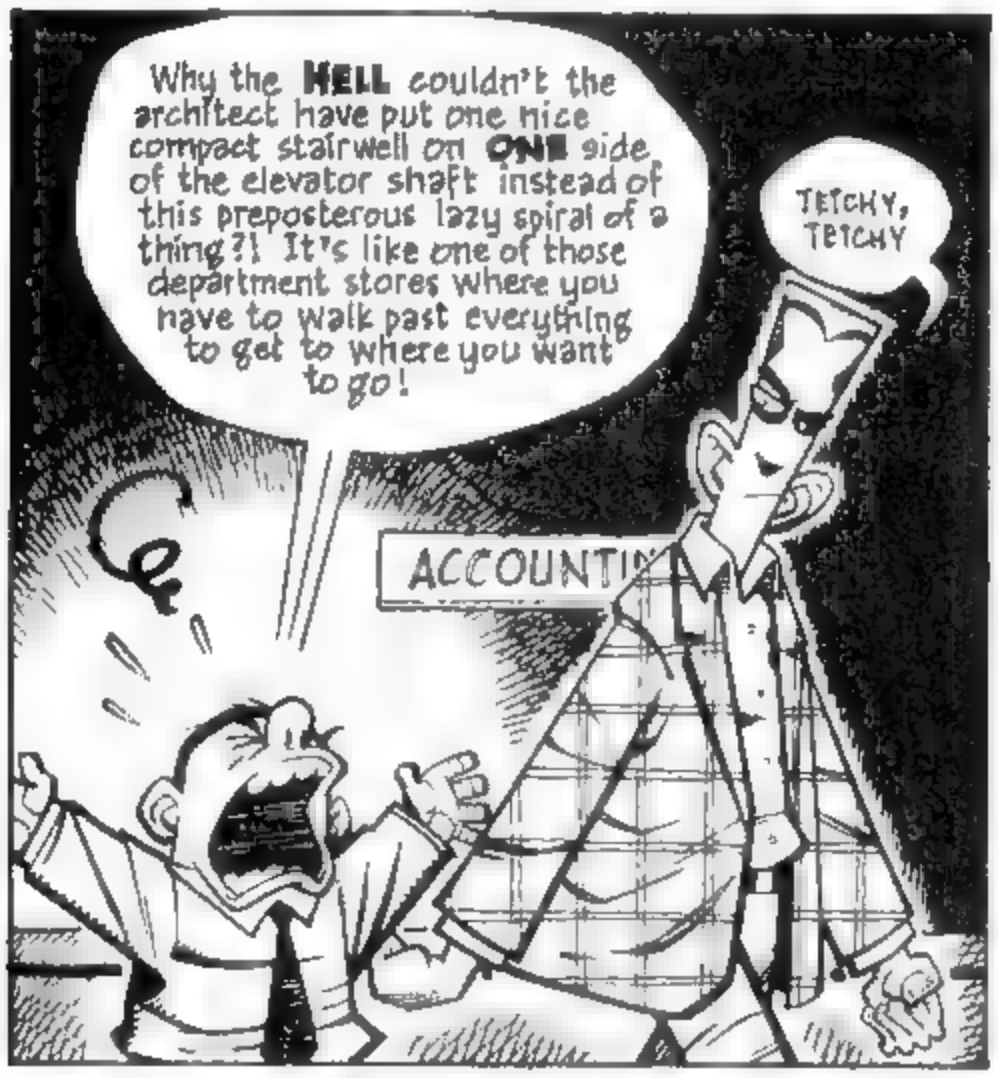

HI, I'M SIMON~ HOW MAY I HELP YOU?

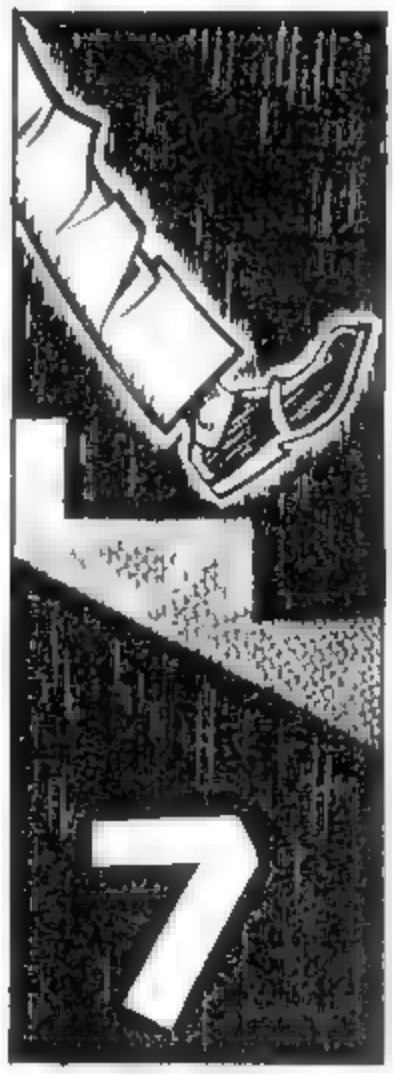

OH, SORRY. YEAH, THIS IS THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, BUT WE DON'T HANDLE IMPOUNDED VEHICLES. I'D SUGGEST TRAFFIC ON FIVE ~ WAIT, IT MIGHT BE SIX.


9

CATERING ↓

WELL, I'M CERTAINLY GLAD THE ELEVATOR BROKE DOWN **AFTER** WE GOT TO THE ELEVENTH FLOOR. I'D HAVE HATED TO'VE WALKED ALL THE WAY UP THERE AND **THEN** BEEN SENT DOWN. THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN BLOODSHED. NOTHING SUPER.
ELEVATOR
DOWN
RECEPTION
Well, I've missed my bus, anyway...
HEY, I DIDN'T **FORCE** YOU TO COME ALONG!
8

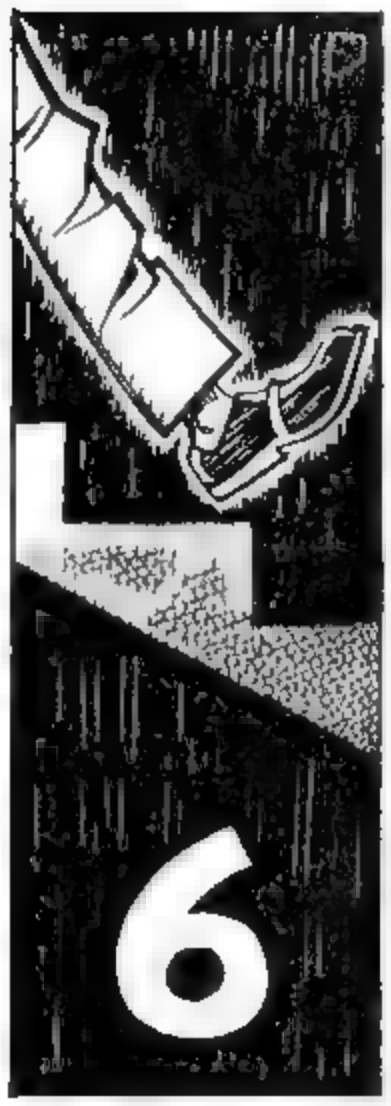

Why the **HELL** couldn't the architect have put one nice compact stairwell on **ONE** side of the elevator shaft instead of this preposterous lazy spiral of a thing?! It's like one of those department stores where you have to walk past everything to get to where you want to go!
TETCHY, TETCHY
ACCOUNTIN


7

SPLOOSH

WHAT THE HELL'S HAPPENED HERE?
THE MEN'S TOILET HAS FLOODED ~ AGAIN. I'M JUST FURIOUS, THEY SAID THEY HAD IT FIXED LAST WEEK.
I'LL **NEVER** GET HOME THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING.

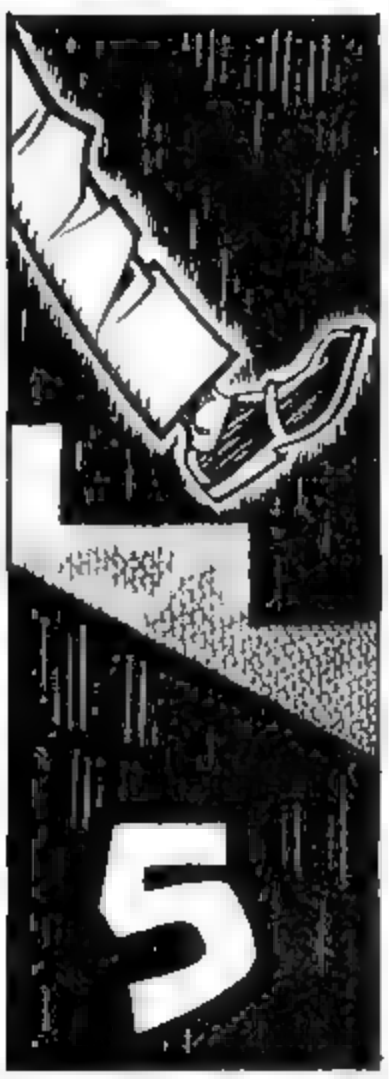
WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? YOU KNOW ALL THE DEPARTMENTS CLOSE AT FIVE?
...TEN TO. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT EXPECTING SPECIAL TREATMENT JUST BECAUSE IT'S A LONG WEEKEND.
Don't get your wig in a tangle, we're just passing through


6

COMPLAINTS, IS IT? WELL, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP US, BUT...
COMPLAINT
I don't know if ANYONE can help us...

WELL, YOU CAN'T MAKE A COMPLAINT UNTIL YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR CAR, NOW CAN YOU?
HAVE YOU TRIED THE THIRD FLOOR?
WE WERE TOLD THE FIFTH

Jesus Christ, some people...!
AT LEAST FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED FIRST, THEN YOU CAN COMPLAIN. IF YOU HAVE TO.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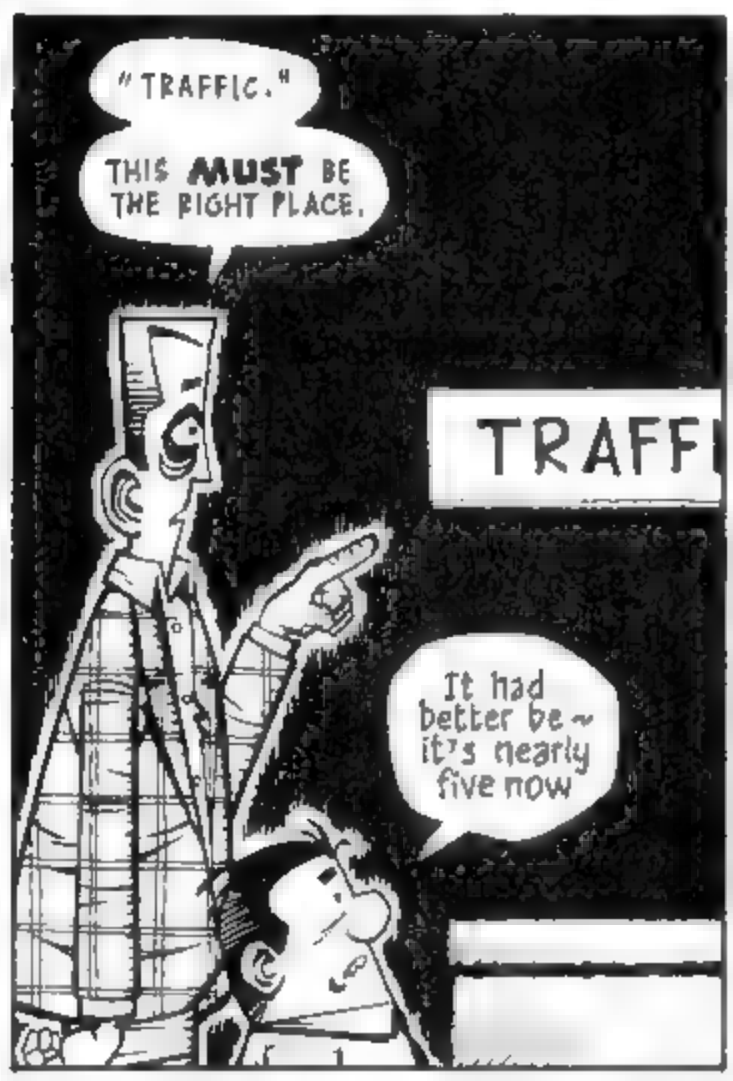
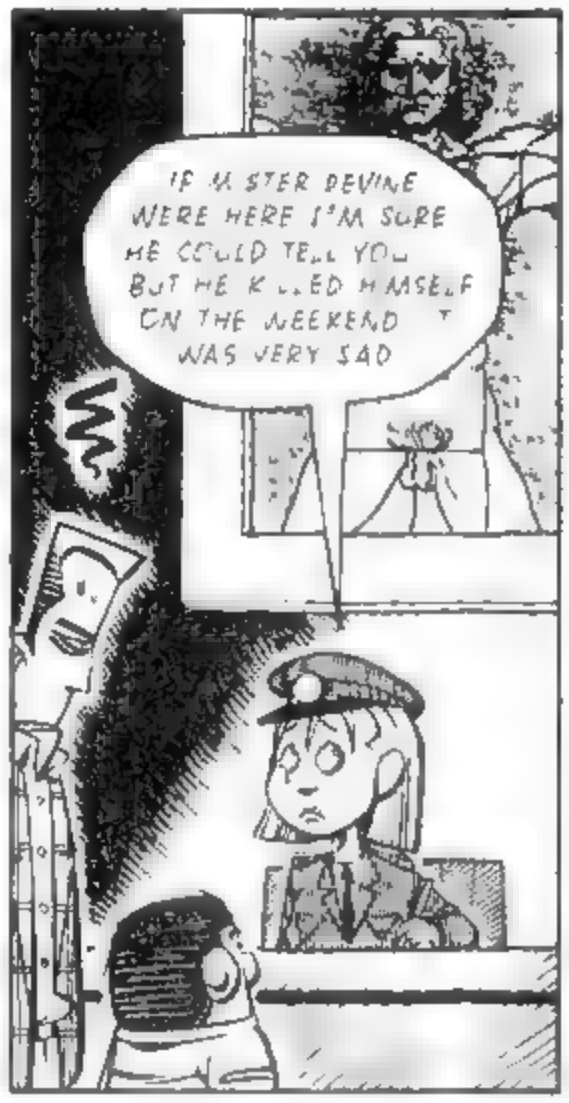
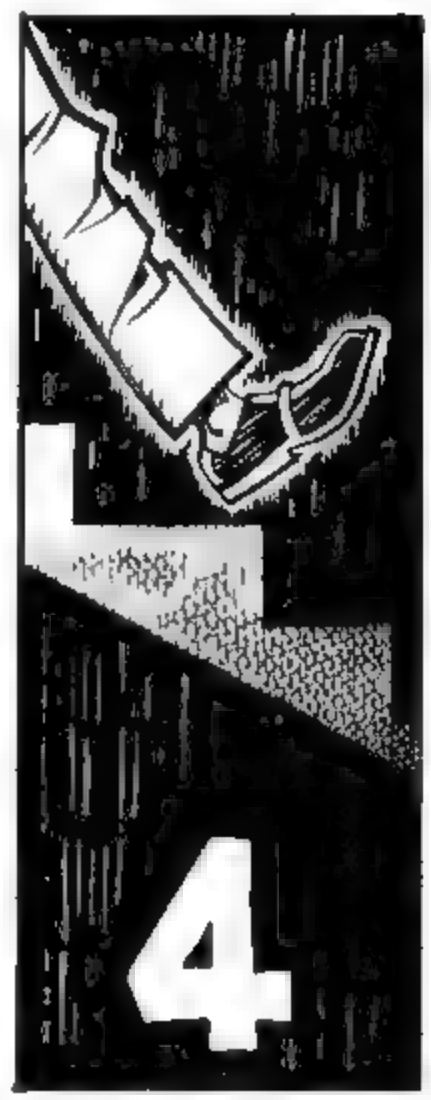

"TRAFFIC."
THIS MUST BE THE RIGHT PLACE.
TRAFF
It had better be ~ it's nearly five now

WELL, WE'LL BE PROSECUTING YOU, BUT ENQUIRIES ABOUT IMPOUNDED VEHICLES ARE, UH, DOWNSTAIRS
THE THIRD FLOOR, RIGHT.
NO, I THINK IT'S FOUR, UM... YEAH, FOUR, I'M SURE. IS THAT THE ONE WITH THE PLAID WALLPAPER?

HOW THE FUCK WOULD I KNOW WHAT FUCKING WALLPAPER THEY HAVE?!! I'VE SEEN JUST ABOUT EVERY SQUARE FUCKING INCH OF THIS FUCKING BUILDING BUT I'M AFRAID I HAVEN'T QUITE MADE IT TO THE FOURTH FUCKING FLOOR AS YET! I'M ON MY WAY THERE NOW!!!


IF MASTER DEVINE WERE HERE I'M SURE HE COULD TELL YOU BUT HE KILLED HIMSELF ON THE WEEKEND I WAS VERY SAD

HAVE A HAPPY EASTER!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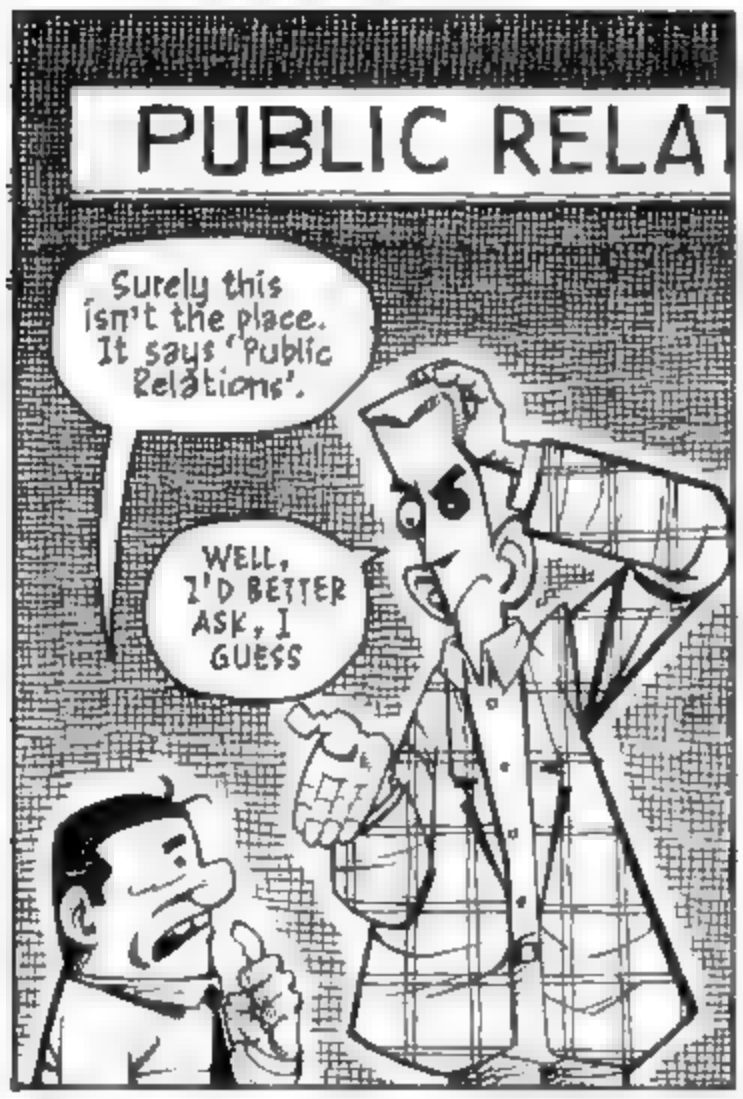
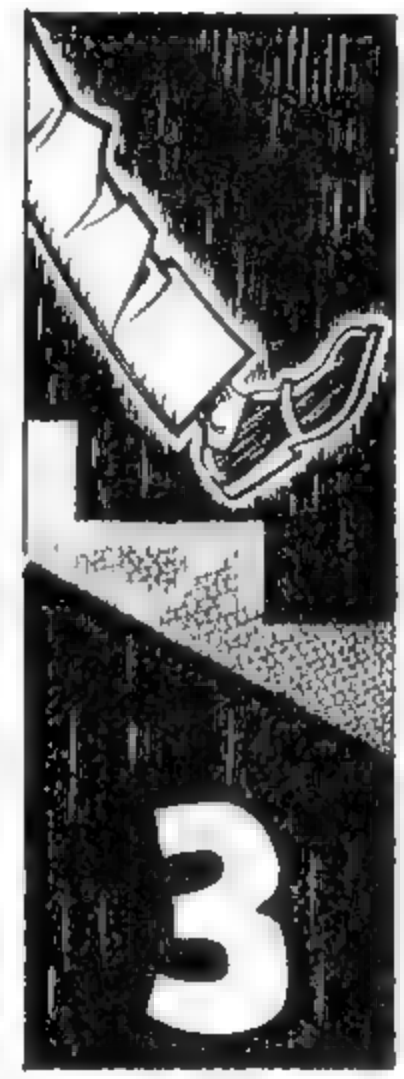

PUBLIC RELAT
Surely this isn't the place. It says 'Public Relations'.
WELL, I'D BETTER ASK, I GUESS

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU WANT TO PAY YOUR RATES?
NO I DON
BECAUSE WE DO ACCEPT RATE PAYMENTS HERE.
WAS THERE A M STAKE IN YOUR RATES NOTICE?
I DON'T KNOW IF THERE WAS OR THERE WASN'T BEC
BECAUSE COMPLAINTS IS ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR

I DON'T WANT TO PAY MY RATES!!
NO NEED TO GET ALL HOITY-TOITY ~ WE ALL HAVE TO PAY OUR RATES I DO, JENNY DOES... DON'T YOU, JENNY?
I CERTAINLY DO, IT'S MY CIVIC DUTY ~ HOW DO YOU THINK THE ROADS GET PAID FOR, S R? PUBLIC DONATIONS?

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...
I THINK YOU'RE GETTING A LITTLE CONFUSED, SIR. LET ME EXPLAIN, IT'S REALLY QUITE SIMPLE...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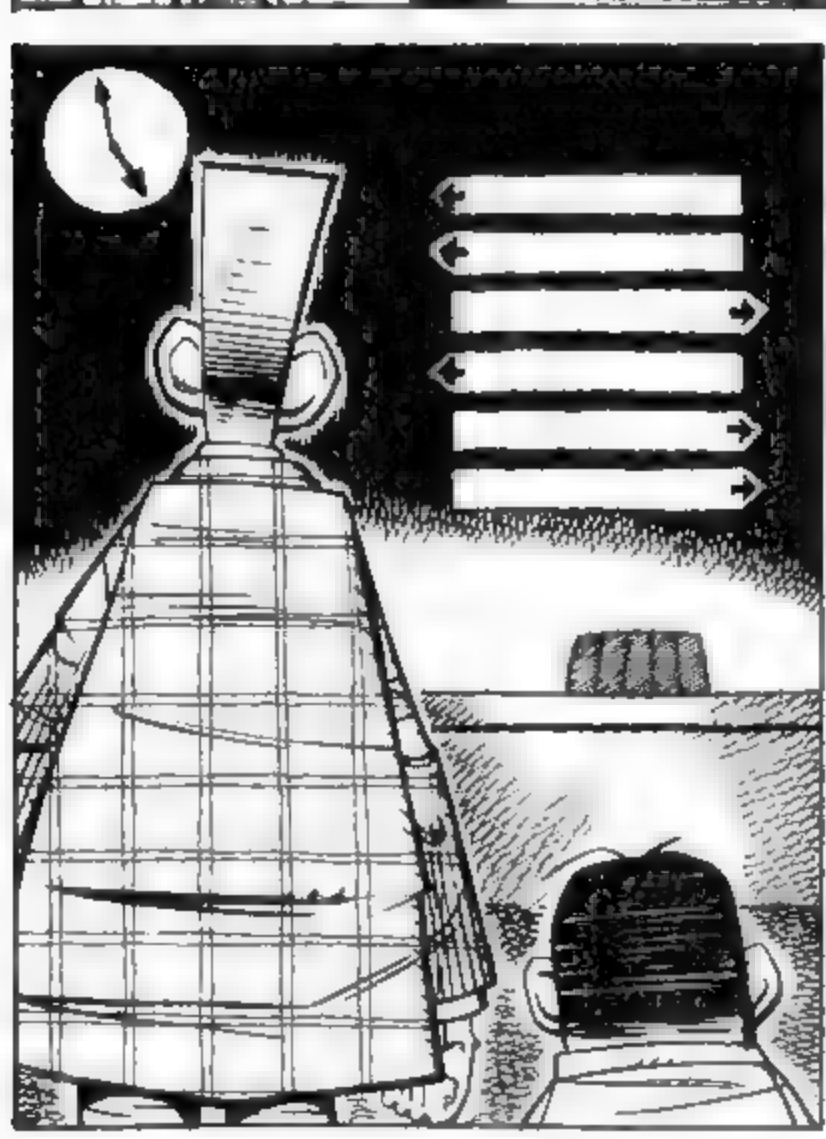
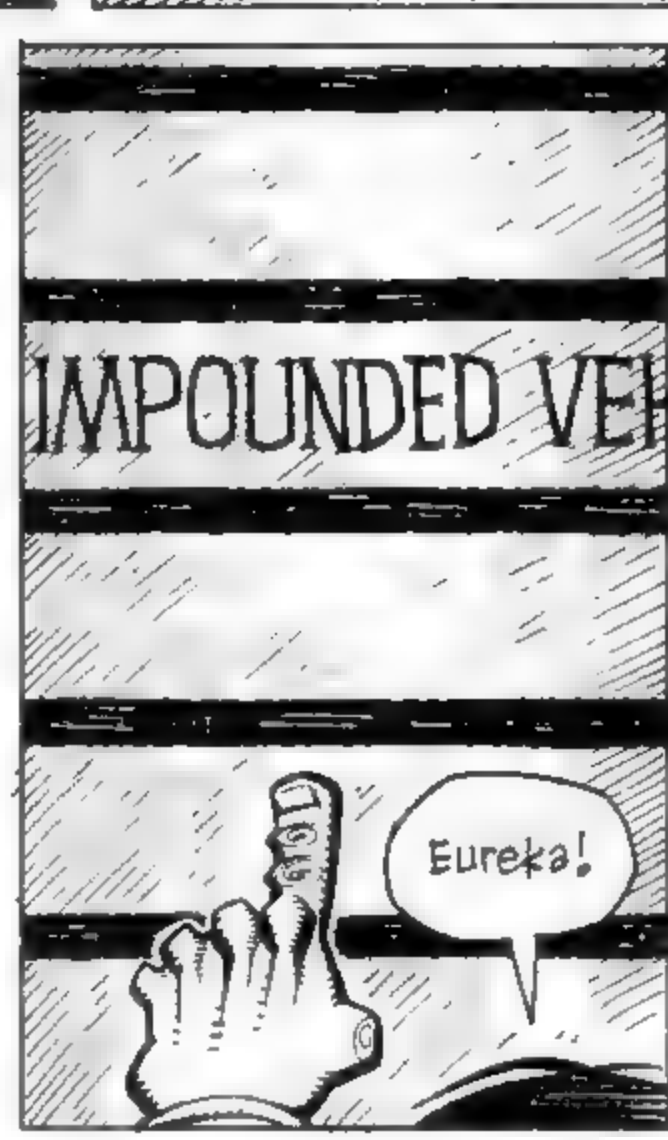
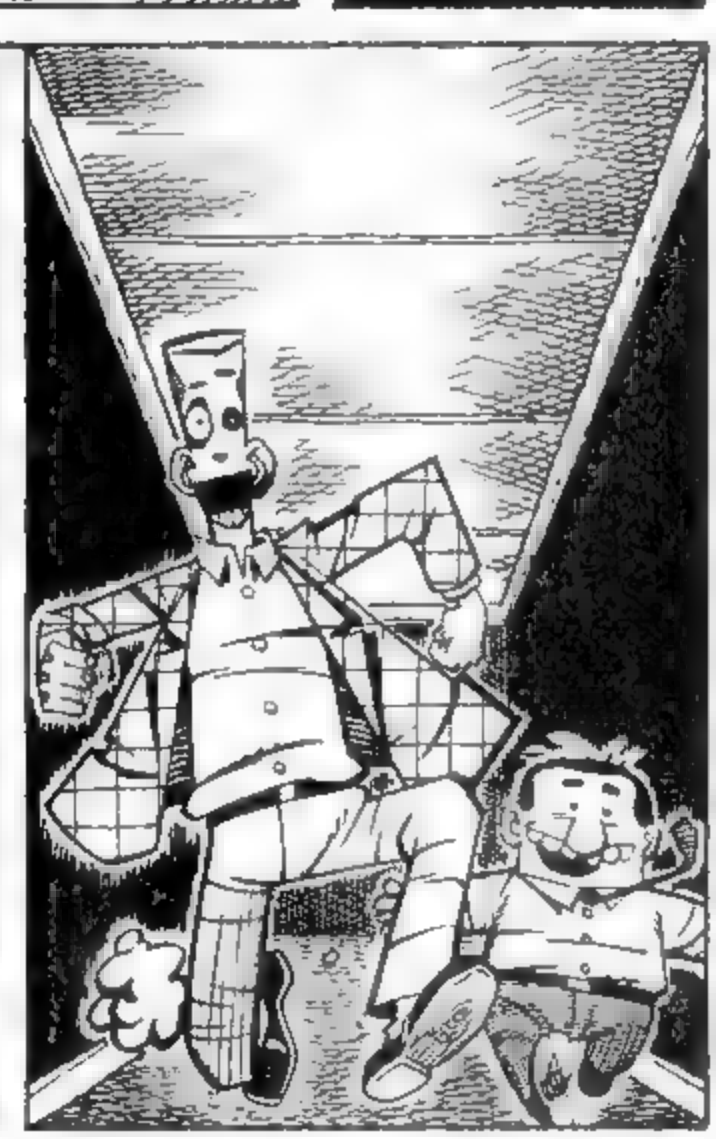
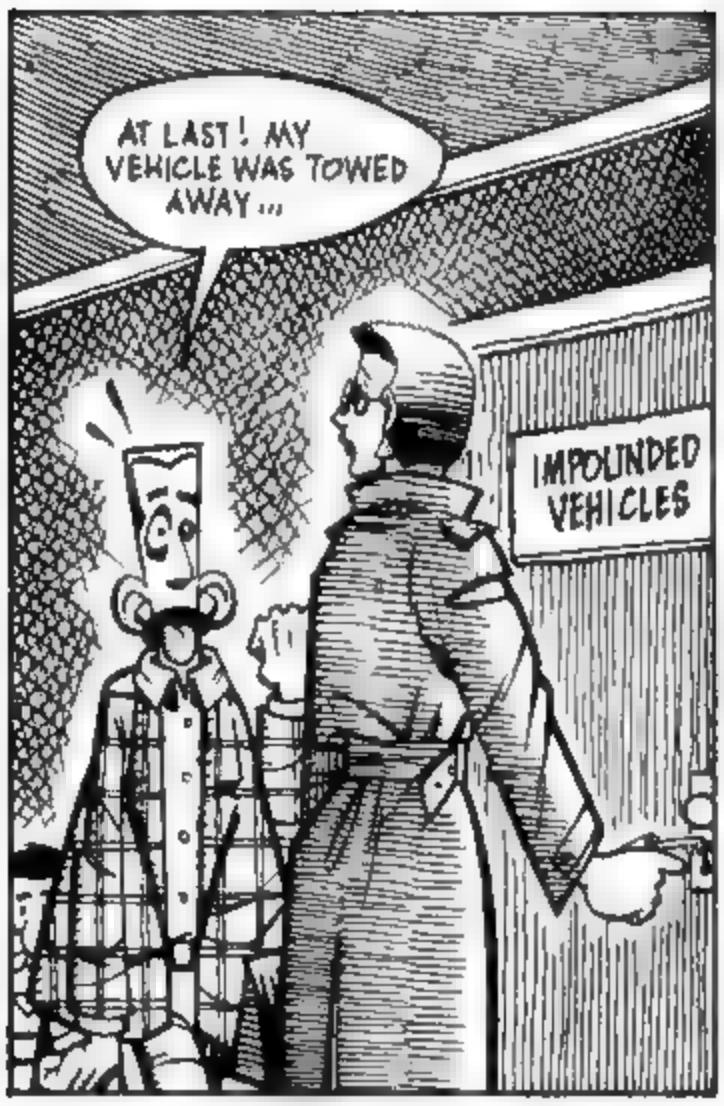


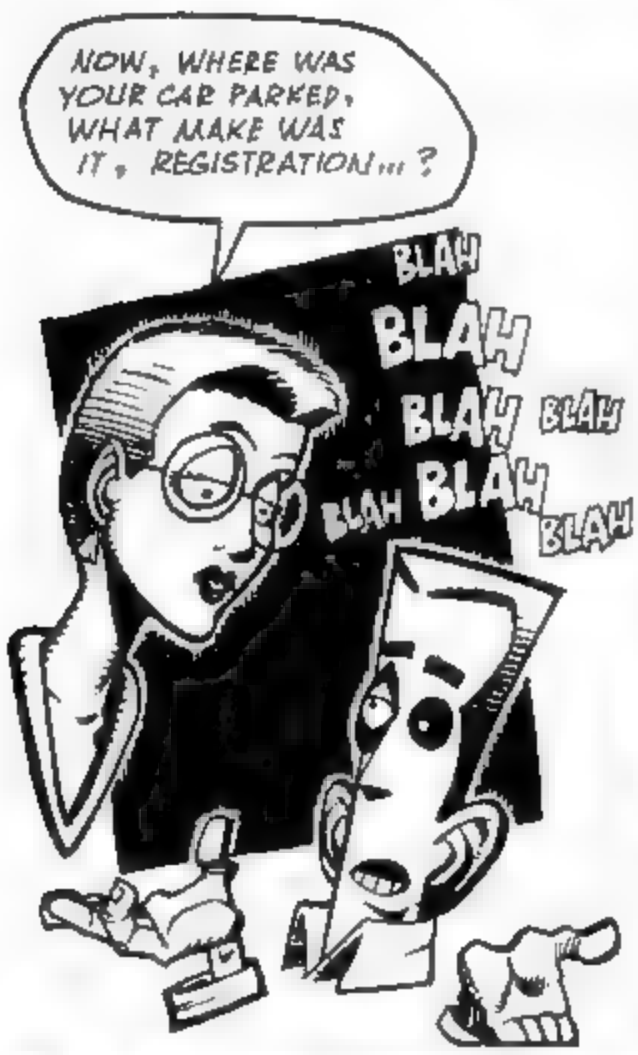

IMPOUNDED VEH
Eureka!



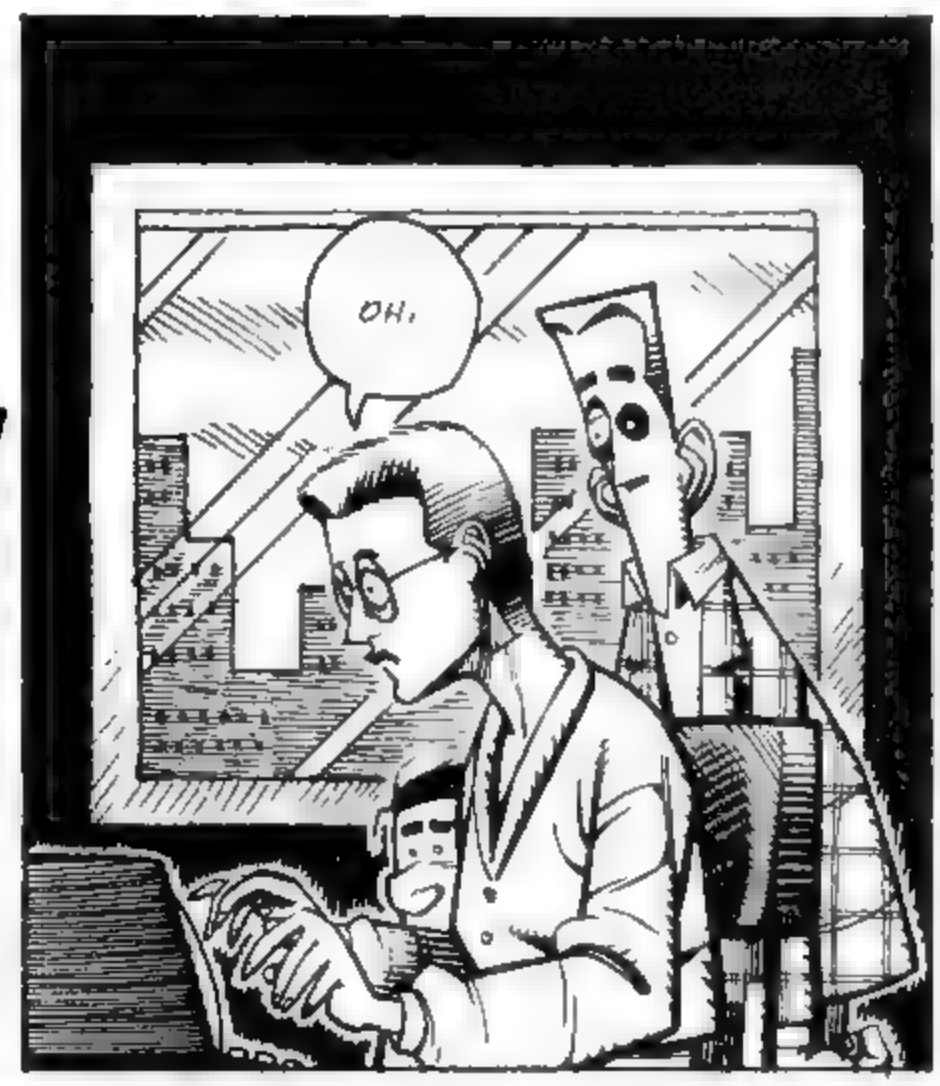

AT LAST! MY VEHICLE WAS TOWED AWAY...
IMPOUNDED VEHICLES

MISTER SOOKS LEFT AT FOUR TODAY, I'M AFRAID, BUT I'M HIS SECRETARY... YOU'RE EVEN LUCKY YOU CAUGHT ME, I WAS JUST GOING HOME.

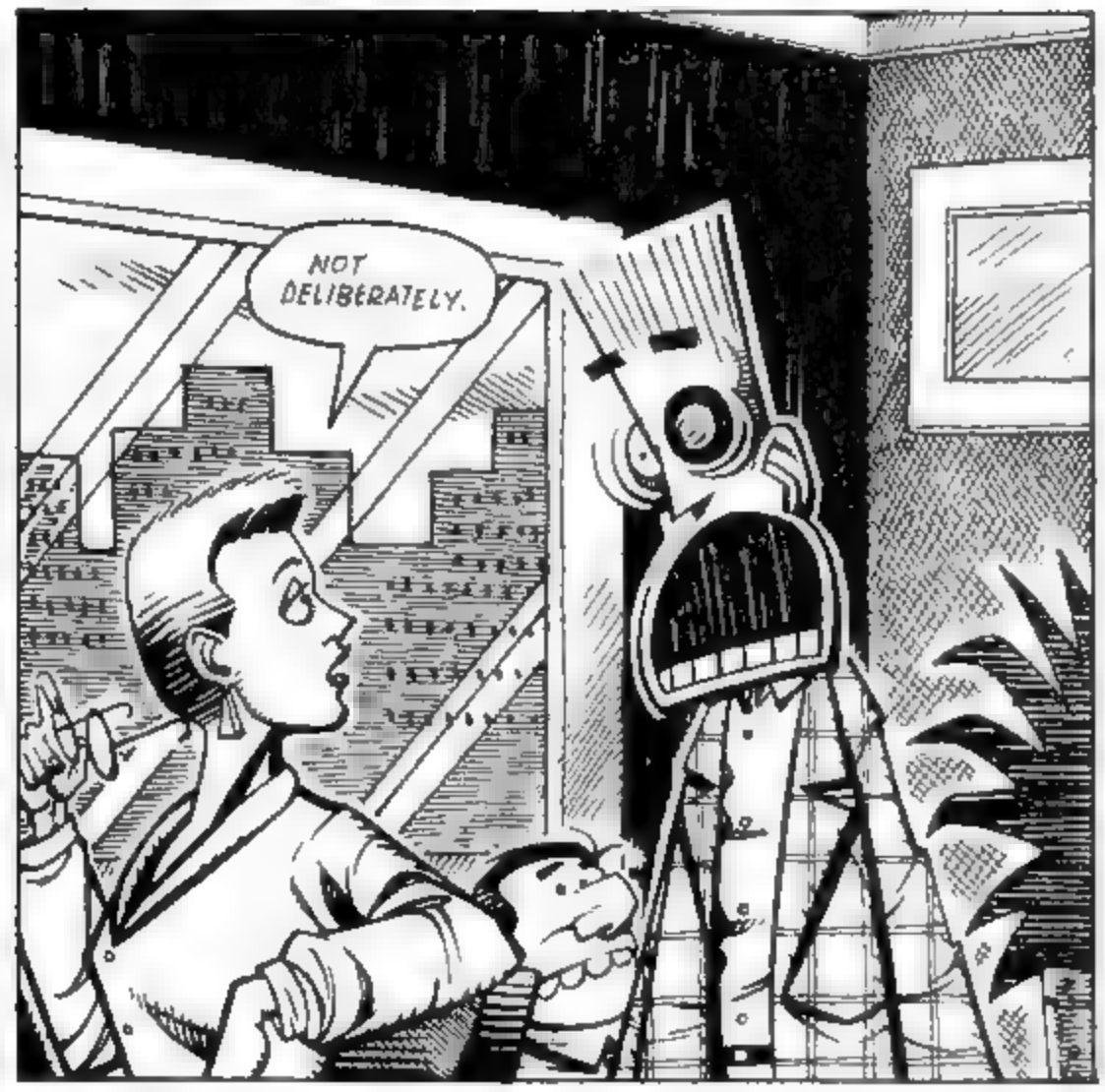
COME IN, TAKE A SEAT


NOW, WHERE WAS YOUR CAR PARKED, WHAT MAKE WAS IT, REGISTRATION...?
BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

I... SEE...

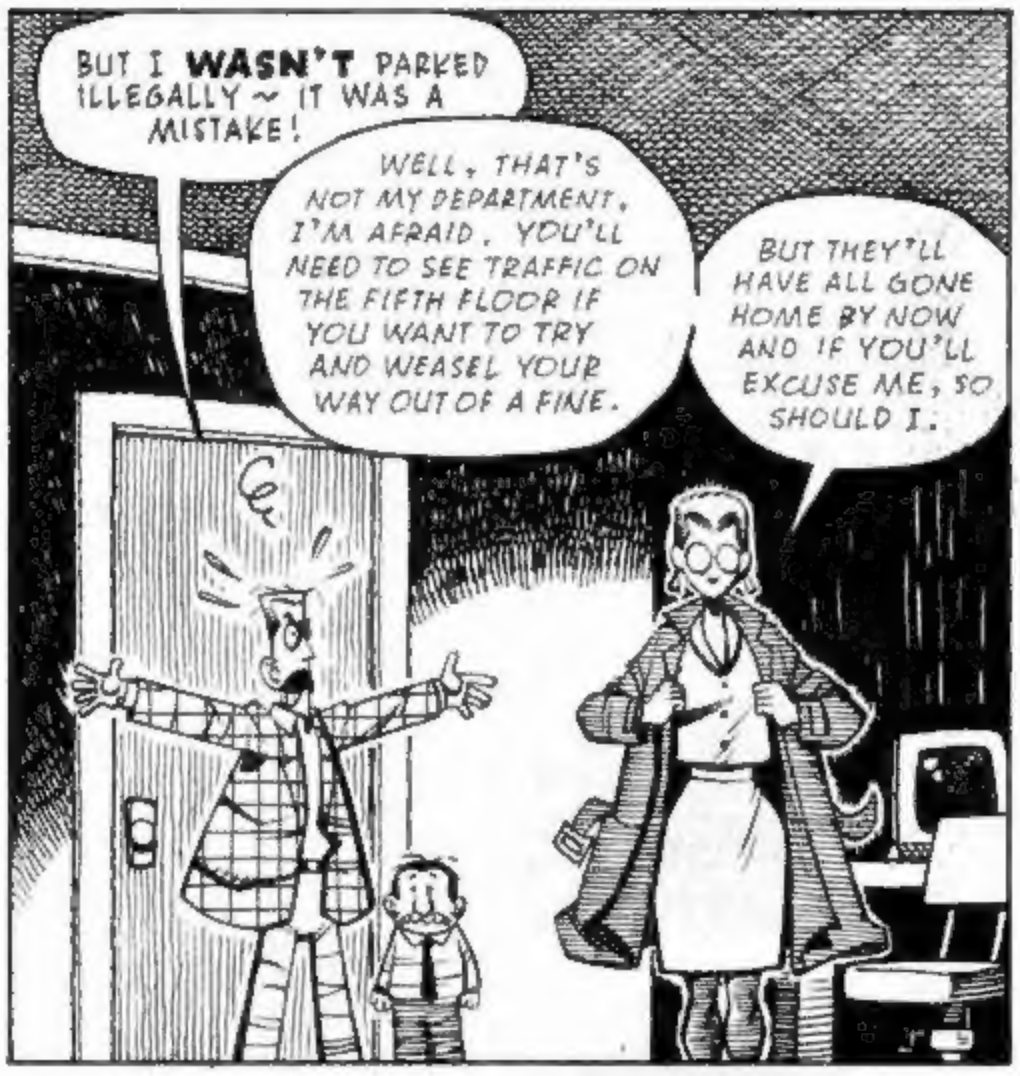

OH.

YOU'RE MISTER... BODKIN, AREN'T YOU?
YES, THAT'S ME
WELL, I'M AFRAID, MISTER BODKIN, THAT YOUR CAR HAS BEEN DEMOLISHED.

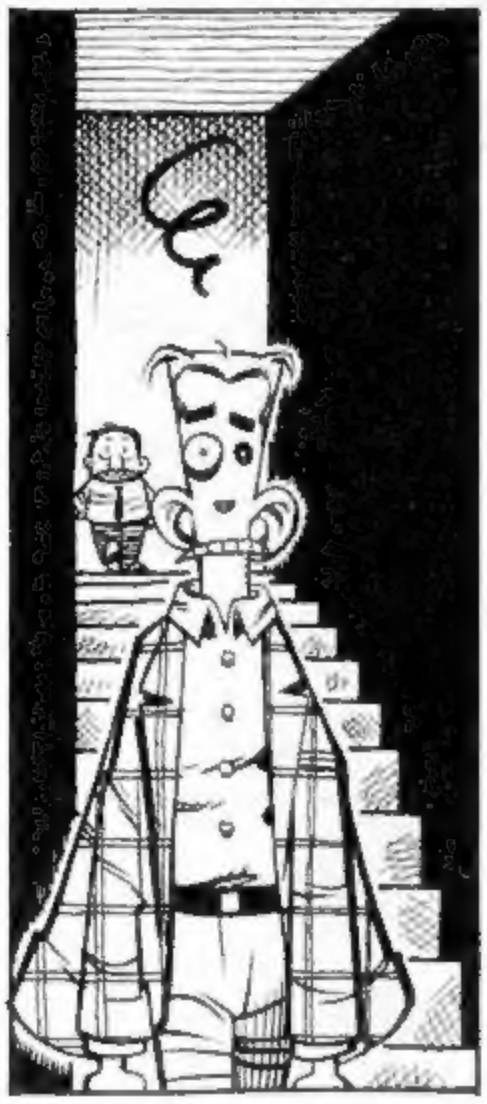

NOT DELIBERATELY.

IT WAS AN UNDERSTANDABLE ERROR ~ SOMEONE SIMPLY SWAPPED TWO DIGITS IN THE REGISTRATION NUMBER AND IT WAS CRUSHED.

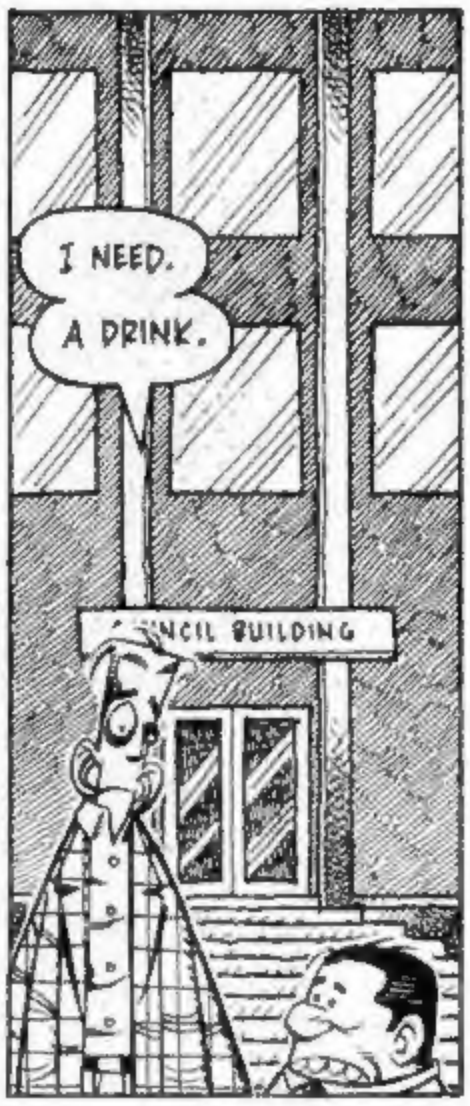
YOU MEAN YOU DESTROYED MY CAR!!
WELL, IT'S NOT AS IF WE DID IT DELIBERATELY, AND IF YOU PARK ILLEGALLY AND THOUGHTLESSLY YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES, NOW DON'T YOU?


BUT I WASN'T PARKED ILLEGALLY ~ IT WAS A MISTAKE!
WELL, THAT'S NOT MY DEPARTMENT, I'M AFRAID. YOU'LL NEED TO SEE TRAFFIC ON THE FIFTH FLOOR IF YOU WANT TO TRY AND WEASEL YOUR WAY OUT OF A FINE.
BUT THEY'LL HAVE ALL GONE HOME BY NOW AND IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, SO SHOULD I.

WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT ABOUT MY CAR?! YOU CAN'T JUST SWAN OUT OF HERE LIKE THIS!
NOW, REALLY, SIR ~ IT'S HARDLY MY CONCERN. I'M ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPOUNDED VEHICLES, AND AS OF 4·35 THIS AFTERNOON, YOUR VEHICLE WAS NO LONGER IMPOUNDED. NOR, IN FACT, WAS IT A VEHICLE.
WE'LL BE OPEN AGAIN ON TUESDAY, THOUGH, AND I'M SURE EVERYTHING CAN BE SORTED OUT QUITE SATISFACTORILY THEN.
IMPOU VEHICLES



EXIT


I NEED. A DRINK.
NCIL BUILDING

CLICK
COUNCIL BUILDING

START HERE

**#1** The issue that started it all! The teeth-gnashing "Crazy Bitches," and "Female Problems." The revealing "Bitchy Bitch Goes to Fantagraphics" and, of course, Toadman's debut in the hilarious (and notorious) "Bitchy Bitch Gets Laid."

**#2** "Bitchy Bitch Goes to Hell" shows the Bitchy One up against the Catholic Church. (And, of course, it's THAT time of the month!) "Penetrating the Smut Glut" gives a wicked woman's-eye-view of the sex-comic trend with some merciless jabs at Eros comics.

**#3** Meet "Comix Bitch" and re-live schoolyard hell in the first blast from Bitchy's past, "Bitsy Bitch Goes to School." Plus a six-page back-up, "Queer," and a guest page by the fabulous Donna Barr!

**#4** "Unhappy Holidays" is a 19-page epic that's both hilarious and touching, revealing much of Bitchy's life, as an adult and child, against the backdrop of Christmas. Plus "How to Marry into Money" by Theresa Henry.

**#5** The special "Men" issue features "Toadman Returns," plus one-pagers by guest guys Dennis Eichhorn, Pat Moriarity, and Colin Upton.

**#6** "Hippie Bitch Gets Laid" features 16 pages of Adolescent Angst set in the psychedelic era! Plus, doggies "do it" in the hilarious back-up, "Bitchy Bitch-in-Heat."

# GOSH DARN, I'M SO DELIGHTED! NAUGHTY BITS has been nominated for a 1992 HARVEY AWARD for "Best New Series" AND an EISNER for "Humor"... WhooPEE!

Roberta Gregory's

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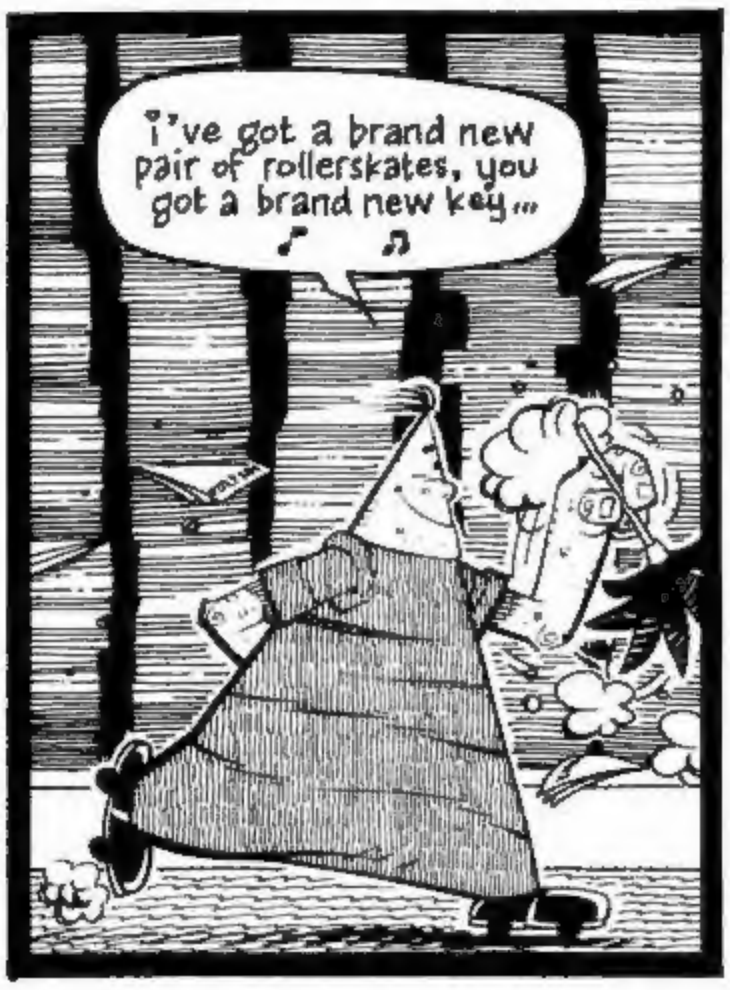
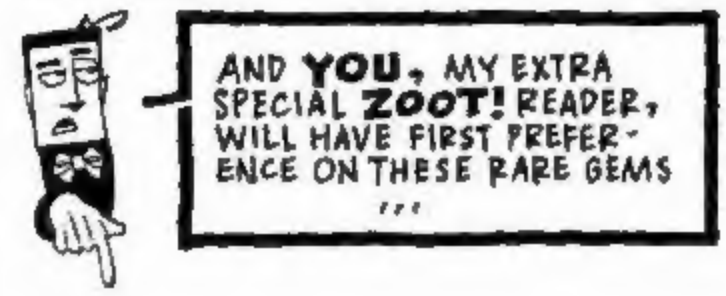
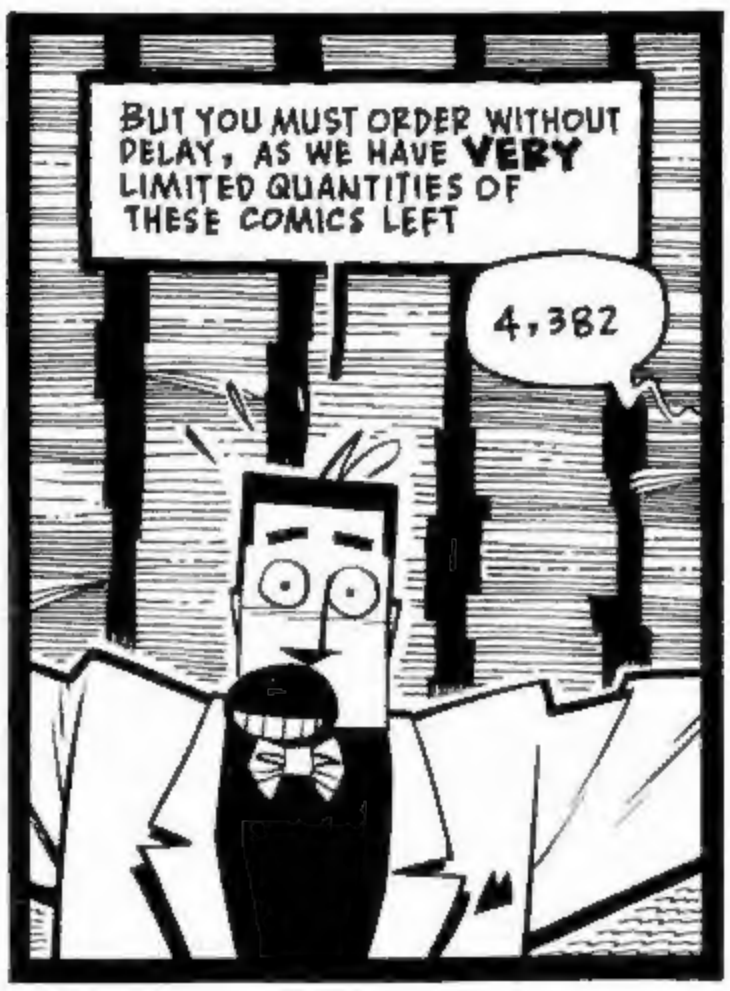





The following back issues of comics featuring artwork by Roger Langridge and/or Andrew Langridge and stories by Andrew and/or Roger Langridge and/or Cornelius Stone are available from Fantagraphics Books, 7563 Lake City Way, Seattle, WA 98115: ***Art D'Ecco* #1-4** (magazine format, $2.95 each); ***Knuckles the Malevolent Nun* #1-2** (comics format, $2.25 each); and ***Leather Underwear* #1** (featuring Knuckles the Malevolent Nun) (magazine format, $2.50). Please enclose an additional $2.00 to cover postage on all orders ($3.00 outside of the U.S.). You may also subscribe to the next four issues of ***Zoot!*** for $10.00 ($11.00 outside the U.S.). Please allow six to eight weeks for your back issues to arrive; subscriptions will be filled as issues are finished and published, namely on a quarterly schedule.



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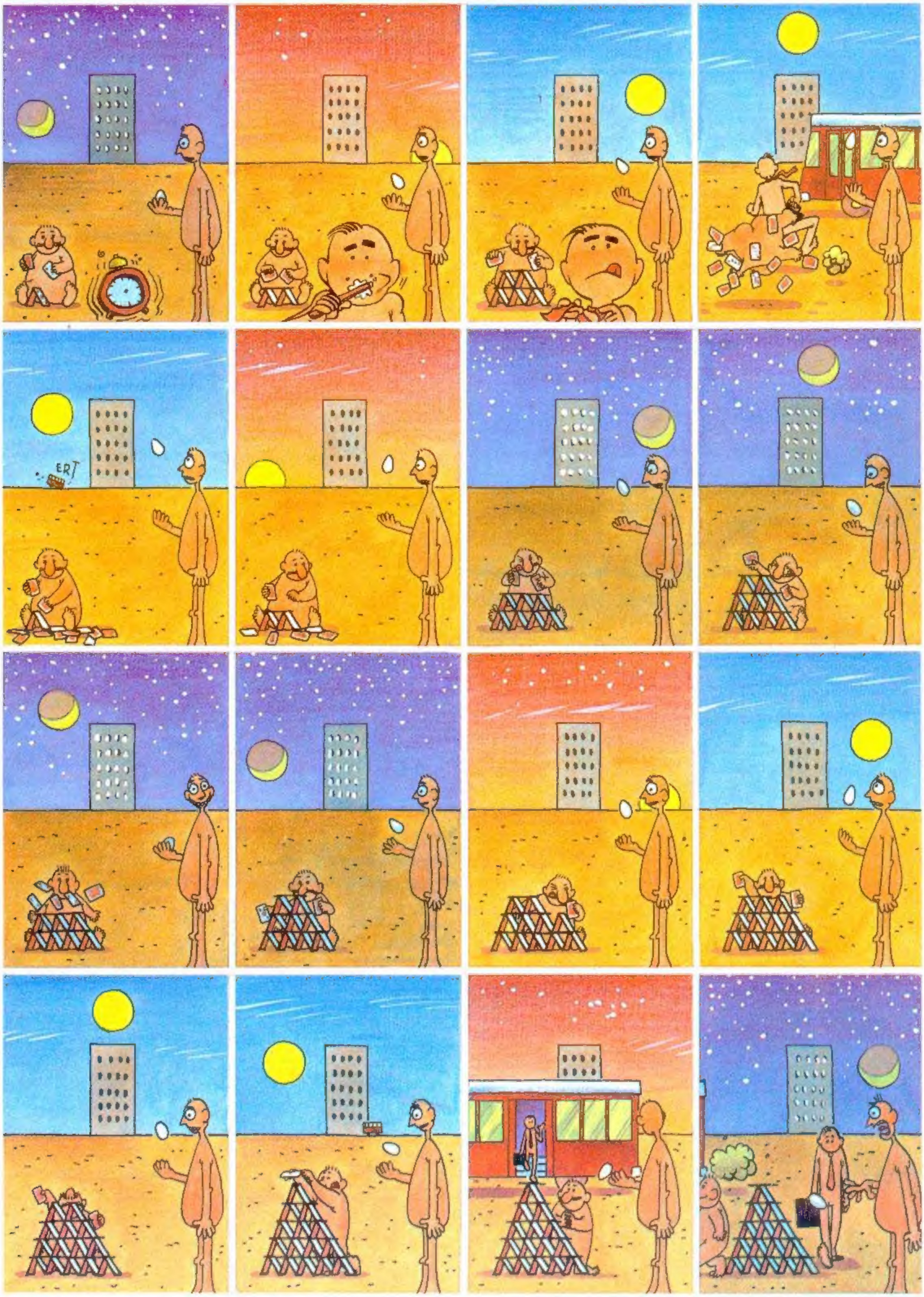
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